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Japan

Japan: U.S. Concessions Fail To Appease Tokyo in Chip Talks

OW1002061196 Tokyo KYODO in English
0541 GMT 10 Feb 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Los Angeles, Feb. 9 KYODO — Japan and the United States failed to reach agreement Friday [9 February] after two days of talks over the extension of a bilateral semiconductor accord which is due to expire in July, despite concessions made by Washington, Japanese officials said.

During the talks, which began Thursday in suburban Los Angeles to monitor achievements made under the current agreement, the U.S. side called for renewing the accord and hinted it would make concessions on numerical targets and the period of extension, the officials said.

The Japanese side rejected the demand, however, reiterating that Tokyo has no intention of negotiating an extension of the accord because the current accord has fulfilled its objectives, they said.

Extension of the microchip accord is regarded as one of top priority trade issues for the administration of President Bill Clinton, who is sensitive to the semiconductor industry in California, an influential state in the presidential election this fall.

The issue will surely be taken up as a key subject when Japanese Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto and Clinton meet in Santa Monica, California, on Feb. 23, the officials said.

The agreement, renewed in 1991, includes foreign chip makers' expectations to boost their market share in Japan to more than 20 percent.

Japan has argued it is unnecessary to extend the accord because the recent market share of foreign-made chips has remained above 25 percent, the officials said.

The two nations will have their next regular follow-up meeting around April, they said.

Japan: Hashimoto Aims To Build 'Mutual Trust' With Clinton

OW1002161796 Tokyo YOMIURI SHIMBUN in Japanese 10 Feb 96 Morning Edition p 2

[Unattributed article]

[FBIS Translated Text] Although an announcement of Prime Minister Hashimoto's planned 23-25 February visit to the United States was made on 9 February and took us by surprise, there is a prevailing view within the ruling parties that "the visit will not affect Diet sessions on the budget bill as the visit will be made during the weekend, and is considered good for Japan-U.S. relations" (according to a senior member of the Liberal Democratic Party). Meanwhile, none of the opposition parties has opposed the visit so far. Despite U.S. President Clinton's visit to Japan, set for April, Prime Minister Hashimoto has decided to visit the United States for summit talks. Those close to the prime minister say "his visit is aimed at deepening mutual, personal trust, which they want to call the 'Bill-Ryu' relationship, and paving the way for success at the April summit talks." At the same time, however, it seems the visit is also intended to give the impression that the Hashimoto Cabinet adopts "self-reliance" diplomacy.

Prime Minister Hashimoto's decision to visit the United States seems to be abrupt, but "in fact, the possibility of a visit had been sought for a long time" (said a senior Foreign Ministry official).

Immediately after taking over the premiership, the prime minister began seeking out the possibility of an early visit to the United States. Chief Cabinet Secretary Seiroku Kajiyama advised that "although the prime minister knows the U.S. President, he should visit the United States as early as possible prior to the President's visit to Japan in April." The prime minister accepted his advice. With that in mind, when Foreign Minister Yukihiko Ikeda visited the United States on 18 January, he conveyed the prime minister's intention to the U.S. side and secretly coordinated a schedule via the Japanese Embassy in the United States.

As for Japan-U.S. summit talks this month, Chief Cabinet Secretary Kajiyama said: "The Japanese and the U.S. Governments have pursued an opportunity to let the two leaders meet any time and any place."

The Japanese side, however, proposed to hold "summit talks somewhere on the West Coast, not in Washington" as "the visit would be made in the midst of Diet deliberations on the budget bill." The two governments finally agreed on summit talks by taking advantage of the President's stumping tour to the West Coast and a recess of the Diet session during the weekend.

Underlying the Japanese Government's proposal seems to be its wish to weaken as much as possible Japan's image that "Japan keeps the rule of a periodic visit" [sankin kotai — a rule of the Tokugawa Shogunate, whereby daimyo, or territorial lords, were required to reside in alternate years at Edo (now Tokyo)] by materializing summit talks in the United States except in Washington. That is because all the successive postwar prime ministers paid a visit to the United States prior to the U.S. President's visit to Japan.

Japan: U.S. Said To Take 'Cooperative' Stance on Okinawa

OW1002050196 Tokyo KYODO in English
0419 GMT 10 Feb 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Washington, Feb. 9 KYODO — The United States will assume a "cooperative" posture on the issue of the huge U.S. presence in Japan's southernmost prefecture of Okinawa, the head of a Japanese coalition mission said Friday [9 February].

Taro Nakayama, delegation head and a former foreign minister, told a press conference that the U.S. showed willingness to "cooperate with Japan as much as possible."

He said he will advise Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto to take up the Okinawa base issue in a meeting with President Bill Clinton, scheduled for Santa Monica near Los Angeles on Feb. 23.

The summit, the first since Hashimoto took office in January, will be an "important meeting where the two heads of government will discuss bilateral, Asia-Pacific regional and global issues frankly, including Okinawa," he said.

Nakayama, however, voiced a cautious view on the possibility of transfer of U.S. forces stationed in Okinawa to the U.S. mainland. "That's not a problem that Japan can decide alone," he said.

The final decision will be left to the summit meeting after possibilities are debated at the special bilateral committee on the Okinawa issue, he said.

Prior to the press conference, the mission members met with Deputy Secretary of State Strobe Talbott and urged him to commit Washington to efforts to improve the living conditions in Okinawa for more effective functioning of the U.S. bases there.

The Okinawa base problems have developed into a major diplomatic issue after an early September rape of a Japanese schoolgirl, for which three U.S. servicemen are on trial. It helped flare up the Okinawa residents' long-standing sour sentiments against the huge presence of U.S. forces in their prefecture.

Tokyo Urges U.S. To Review Military Operations on Okinawa

OW1102090296 Tokyo KYODO in English
0848 GMT 1 Feb 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, Feb. 11 KYODO — Japan has urged the United States to review its military operations in Japan, including drills and deployment of troops, during bilateral talks over the scaling down of U.S. bases in Okinawa, government sources said Sunday [11 February].

Japan has filed the requests at a joint action committee set up last November to seek concrete measures within a year for consolidating, realigning and reducing U.S. bases in the southernmost island prefecture.

This is the first such request Tokyo has made to Washington since the two nations signed the bilateral security treaty in 1960, the sources said.

Japan has proposed that the joint committee spell out conclusions over the requests in its report to be compiled this fall, the sources said.

Tokyo has asked Washington to redeploy U.S. troops in Okinawa, consolidating military drills and embarking within this year on the scaling down of bases there by curtailing some facilities and land that is not often used.

Japan has also asked the U.S. to incorporate in the report a reduction in the size of U.S. troops stationed in Japan, currently at 47,000, after the stabilization of the situation in northeast Asia, including the Korean peninsula.

Foreign Ministry sources said the U.S. departments of state and defense have shown understanding toward the Japanese requests.

But the U.S. Forces in Japan have expressed strong opposition to the proposals, saying present military drills and facilities are necessary in case of emergency, the sources said.

Under the joint committee, the U.S. has already started examining specific options, including the relocation of Futemma Marine Corps Air Station, as part of efforts to produce "concrete ideas" to present during President Bill Clinton's visit to Tokyo in April.

The move comes in the wake of growing outcry in Okinawa for reducing U.S. military presence there following last September's rape of a local schoolgirl for which three U.S. servicemen are now on trial.

Japan: DA Chief Pledges Okinawa Base Proposals by Apr

OW1102115596 Tokyo KYODO in English
1010 GMT 11 Feb 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Naha, Japan, Feb. 11 KYODO — Defense Agency [DA] chief Hideo Usui pledged Sunday [11 February] that Tokyo and Washington will try to come up with proposals toward reducing the U.S. military presence on Okinawa before U.S. President Bill Clinton's visit to Japan in April, officials said.

Usui told Okinawa Gov. Masahide Ota that the two countries will make efforts to wrap up talks in a way that they gain a favorable answer. Usui, a state minister and director general of the Defense Agency, is in Okinawa for the first time since assuming office last month.

Okinawa, where two-thirds of the 47,000 U.S. troops in Japan are stationed, has long been demanding reductions in troops and military facilities.

The rape of a local schoolgirl last September, for which three U.S. servicemen are on trial, has sparked Okinawa's calls for a total withdrawal of U.S. troops from the island prefecture.

In the meeting with Usui, Ota urged Tokyo to support the Okinawa prefectural government's plan for the eventual return of all land occupied by U.S. military bases.

"If there is no visible movement toward a reduction of U.S. military bases (in Okinawa), friendly ties between the United States and Japan might be adversely affected," Ota said, warning of a further rise in local sentiment against the U.S. troops and the bilateral security alliance.

Noting that the prefectural and central governments are wide apart concerning the bases issue, Usui told Ota that Tokyo will stand firmly by the bilateral security arrangements.

Usui promised serious efforts to materialize an early return of several U.S. military installations. The U.S. has already agreed to return Naha Naval Port and several other facilities.

Ota reiterated Okinawa's long-standing demand that the Futemma airfield, located at the center of the city of Ginowan, be returned soon.

Ahead of his talks with the governor, Usui met with U.S. Marine Corps Commander Gen. Charles Krulak, who is on a two-week Pacific tour, at the Air Self-Defense Force base in Naha.

Usui urged that U.S. troop discipline be strictly enforced. The Defense Agency chief will stay in Okinawa through Monday to inspect several U.S. bases there.

Japan: Usui States Negative View on Futenma Airfield's Return

OW1202065996 Naha RYUKYU SHIMPO in Japanese 12 Feb 96 Morning Edition p 2

[FBIS Translated Text] Director General Hideo Usui of the Defense Agency [DA] held a news conference at the Naha Self-Defense Forces [SDF] base on the evening of 11 February. Touching on the Okinawa Prefectural Government's [OPG] request for the complete return of the Futenma airfield, Usui indicated his negative view and said: "Since the use of U.S. military bases is based on its basic strategy, we are not supposed to say this or that." Concerning the transfer of various installations such as the Naha Naval Port, on which talks are deadlocked now, Usui stated that "in a broader sense, the transfer will be useful to the development of Okinawa." Then, he stated his expectations for "the OPG's cooperation is based on its view of the situation from a broader standpoint."

Director General Usui attended the new conference after making an inspection tour over the U.S. military bases in an SDF helicopter. Usui said: "I have actually come to feel what pains and hardship the Okinawan residents have been asked to bear for the sake of our country's security and defense." However, concerning the Futenma airfield, the return of which OPG has brought up on the basis that "it is dangerous because it is located close to the residential area," Director General Usui said: "In the Japan-U.S. Security Treaty, it is stated that the United States will protect Japan. We are not supposed to say this or that about its defense system."

As for the OPG's Action Program on the complete return of military bases by 2015, DA Director General Usui stated difficulties in complying with the OPG's new requests, and said: "We have reached an accord on three cases with the U.S. side, and the point at issue will be how to further promote coordination with the U.S. side on other cases. Concerning those cases, on which an accord has been reached with the U.S. side, serious efforts will be made so that as many cases — the three cases in particular — as possible will be settled as soon as possible."

Moreover, the OPG has submitted a three-point request concerning the joint statement on the security arrangement to be issued at the Japan-U.S. summit talks scheduled for April. For example, the OPG requested that it should not be clearly stated in the joint statement that "a military strength of 47,000 U.S. personnel will be stationed in Japan." Concerning this request, Director General Usui stated: "The Okinawa problem is a very important issue. It is hoped that a favorable document will be issued at the summit talks." In this way, he stated his hope that the OPG's request will be reflected in the joint statement.

As for the lawsuit involving both the central and prefectural governments on the proxy signing of documents on enforced use of land as military bases, Usui said: "The settlement of one case concerning the expiration of the lease of a land lot of the Sobe Communications Installation has become a very serious problem. It is expected that the court will conclude its deliberations soon on the basis of the principle concerning local autonomy."

The OPG has also requested that the training site for live-fire exercises across the Prefectual Route 104 should be abolished. Concerning this issue, Usui first stressed that "the troops will not be transferred." Then, he indicated that final negotiations are now under way to have the training site transferred to several SDF training fields on mainland Japan by this summer.

Japan: Citizens' Group Holds Rally Against U.S. Bases

OW1202104896 Tokyo KYODO in English 1022 GMT 12 Feb 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, Feb. 12 KYODO — Some 800 people rallied in Tokyo on Monday [12 February] to protest the U.S. military presence in Okinawa and support Okinawa Gov. Masahide Ota in his legal battle with the central government over the forced rental of land to the U.S. military.

The rally was organized by a citizens' group opposed to the forced rental of land on the southwestern Japanese island.

Some 40 of the participants are slated to visit the Defense Facilities Administration Agency Tuesday morning to demand the return of land used by the U.S. military in Okinawa.

The Okinawa governor has been in a court battle with the central government since December when then Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama sought a court order to force Ota to sign documents needed for the continued rental of land to the U.S. military.

So far, two hearings have been held over the issue, which was triggered by a public outcry over the U.S. military presence following the alleged rape of an Okinawa schoolgirl last September by three U.S. servicemen, who are now on trial.

Although Okinawa accounts for only 0.6 percent of Japan's overall territory, some 75 percent of land space occupied by U.S. military facilities in Japan is on the island.

Japan: Peacekeepers in Golan Expected To Join Military Drills

OW1002123996 Tokyo KYODO in English 1031 GMT 10 Feb 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Golan Heights, Feb. 10 KYODO — Japanese members of a UN Peacekeeping mission serving in the Israeli-occupied Golan Heights will take part in joint military exercises with other members, sources familiar with the mission said Saturday [10 February].

Under Diet legislation covering the terms for SDF participation in UN Peacekeeping activities, SDF personnel are not permitted to participate in armed exercises or drills which assume they are a military unit under UN Command in hypothetical battle conditions.

The sources said this means the Japanese peacekeepers' participation in joint military exercises organized by the UN Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF) is to be interpreted as the same as SDF participation in similar exercises with military personnel from the United States or other countries.

Since the use of weapons by the SDF peacekeepers is limited to an individual's legitimate self-defense or means of escape from a conflict, the Japanese peacekeepers will not take part in the exercises as a unit, they said.

The exercises will include hypothetical poison gas and nuclear attacks, and the SDF peacekeepers will use gas masks and protective clothing worn during rescue efforts for victims of the deadly sarin nerve gas attack on Tokyo subways in March last year, the sources said.

The defense agency has decided that the shooting drills will be conducted separately from the joint ones as a means of maintaining individual SDF members' firing ability, they said.

SDF personnel have previously taken part in UN Peacekeeping operations in Cambodia and Mozambique, and in refugee assistance in Rwanda, but they have not previously participated in joint drills with troops from other participating countries.

UNDOF serves as a buffer between Israeli and Syrian forces in the Golan Heights.

The Japanese peacekeepers will take over a Canadian contingent's responsibilities of transporting UNDOF supplies from ports and airports in Syria, Lebanon and Israel. They will assume that duty from Tuesday following an official welcoming ceremony Monday.

Japan: PRC Ship Appears To Drill for Oil Off Disputed Islets

OW1102144196 Tokyo KYODO in English 1356 GMT 11 Feb 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, Feb. 11 KYODO — A Chinese oil exploration ship entered waters near the disputed Senkaku Islands in the East China Sea earlier this month and appeared to have conducted trial drilling for oil, sources close to the Japanese Government said Sunday [11 February].

The uninhabited islands, called Diaoyutai Islands in China, are located some 150 kilometers northeast of Taiwan and are claimed by China, Japan and Taiwan.

The International Convention on the Law of the Sea, which Japan plans to ratify after gaining approval during the current Diet session, obliges all signatory nations to respect an exclusive 200-mile economic zone off a nation's coasts.

Within their zones, states have the exclusive right to fish or exploit natural resources such as oil, to reclaim land or to construct artificial islands.

Against this backdrop, the discovery of oil resources would almost certainly trigger a major diplomatic row between Japan and China.

Japan's renewing its territorial claims to another disputed group of islets, known in Japan as Takeshima, in connection with the upcoming ratification of the law of the sea convention earlier this week already soured relations with South Korea, the other claimant.

According to the sources, the Chinese vessel was sighted 320 km north-northeast off the Senkaku Isles crossing some 570 meters over the fictitious center line between the Japanese and Chinese coast lines.

The Japanese Government has acknowledged that the Chinese oil drilling vessel Kantan No. 3 has been anchored in the area since last December. A huge flame was seen Feb. 4-5 and was believed to have stemmed from the burning of natural gas.

After listening to oil exploration experts, Tokyo concluded that the vessel was almost certainly conducting a trial drill.

The vessel is now apparently preparing to withdraw, the sources said.

Japanese Government officials said they fear the Chinese activities might adversely affect bilateral ties. Tokyo has urged Beijing to refrain from exploring in the disputed waters.

But Beijing insists it acts correctly arguing that its exclusive zone is to be measured from the border of the continental shelf stretching as far as Japan.

Tokyo, however, views the sea east of the center line as Japanese territorial waters.

The convention, which went into force in November 1994, stipulates that conflicting claims are solved in talks between the claimants. More than 80 countries have ratified the treaty.

Japan: Editorial Opposes PRC Military Exercises in Taiwan Strait

OW1202005996 Tokyo ASAHI SHIMBUN in Japanese 10 Feb 96 Morning Edition p 5

[Editorial: "We Oppose Military Exercises in the Taiwan Strait"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Something smells scorched in the situation across the Taiwan Strait. As reported in Hong Kong papers, China is likely to conduct large-scale military exercises in the Taiwan Strait soon, and the Chinese authorities have neither confirmed nor denied such reports.

Reportedly, Taiwan has deployed missiles and is repeatedly conducting military exercises. To check such moves, the United States has sent its aircraft carrier Nimitz to the Taiwan Strait, and Defense Secretary Perry has issued a warning against "China for its undisguised military threat."

It is observed that China's military exercises are targeted at the Taiwanese presidential election [campaigning] scheduled to start on 24 February. Since President Li Teng-hui's visit to the United States last year, China has attacked the president as "the one who is planning Taiwan's independence." It is generally observed that in imposing its military threat, China aims at reducing the number of votes that President Li will get.

Last summer, China held missile-launching exercises in the waters near Taiwan on two occasions. As a result, the price of stocks has fallen in Taiwan, and the popularity rate for President Li has dropped a little. In this connection, China seems to have reached a conclusion that "missile exercises did work."

Nevertheless, popularity cannot be won by making threats. General Secretary Jiang Zemin [of the CCP] has indicated a flexible approach by making an 8-point proposal at Spring Festival (New Year based on the lunar calendar), which includes an item that "Chinese will never fight against Chinese." However, China has persuaded its diplomacy later by imposing military pressure. As a result, anti- Beijing feelings have become amplified among Taiwan residents.

What does China intend to bring about in launching large-scale military exercises once again?

At this point of time, it seems most likely that President Li will be elected as the first president by popular vote. If President Li should get less than 50 percent of the total votes because of military exercises, the ruling Kuomintang [KMT] will probably choose having the coalition cooperate with the opposition Democratic Progressive Party [DPP], which shows a stronger trend toward independence. If the opposition candidate Peng Mingmin should win in the election by fishing in troubled waters, the result will be very unfavorable probably even for China.

The amount of trade between China and Taiwan dropped sharply during the second half of 1995 when tension became heightened between China and Taiwan, and China and Taiwan should have a better understanding that both have suffered a loss.

Maintaining that the Taiwan issue "is an internal issue," China has proclaimed that "it will reject any intervention from the outside." However, an attempt to use military force in the Taiwan Strait will seriously affect peace and stability not only in China and Taiwan but also in Asia as a whole.

At present, serious tension exists in three areas in Asia: between North and South Korea; between China and Taiwan; and in the Nansha Islands (the Spratlys). In particular, the attention of the neighboring countries and the whole world as well is now centered on the relationship between China and Taiwan.

Many countries, particularly Southeast Asian countries, have become nervous about China's attempt to strengthen its military force. The Taiwan issue no longer concerns China and Taiwan alone. Both the United States and Japan should make serious efforts to find out what can possibly be done to urge self-restraint on both sides and to ease the tension existing between them.

Military tensions across the Taiwan Strait should not be allowed to become further intensified. We oppose China's military exercises in the Taiwan Strait. At the same time, we request that Taiwan should refrain from pursuing any policy that may get on China's nerves needlessly. It is frequently said in China that "thunder is loud but raindrops are small." In other words, much has been said but little will be done. When Chinese fight with each other, neither will strike the first blow even while they are shouting at each other loudly.

Military exercises may be regarded as a one kind of psychological warfare. It is observed in various countries such as the United States that recent military exercises will not lead to Taiwan's liberation by military force [buryoku kaihou].

Nevertheless, there is no guarantee that accidents or misfiring missiles may bring about some result contrary to original intentions. We are afraid that these things may come to pass.

Japan: LDP's Kato on Need for Tokyo-Seoul Dialogue

OW1202052796 Tokyo KYODO in English 0437 GMT 12 Feb 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Yamagata, Japan, Feb. 12 KYODO — Koichi Kato, secretary general of the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), criticized South Korea on Monday [12 February] for refusing to discuss bilateral issues with a ruling coalition mission, including a dispute over the Takeshima Islands in the Sea of Japan.

In a speech in the town of Atsumi in his native Yamagata Prefecture, Kato underscored the need for a "frank" dialogue on bilateral disputes.

"I am worried that relations between neighboring countries would become further complicated if we do not continue discussions," said Kato.

He noted that both Japan and South Korea have long claimed the islands, known in South Korea as Tokto Islands, as their own territory.

The Japanese ruling coalition mission to South Korea postponed its departure Saturday after South Korean President Kim Yong-sam canceled a planned meeting, expressing displeasure over Japan's claim to the disputed islets.

The Japanese team, led by Taku Yamasaki, chairman of the LDP's policy affairs research council, was scheduled to meet with Kim on Monday over Japan's plans to resume normalization talks with North Korea.

The mission reportedly planned to carry a letter from Japanese Prime Minister and LDP President Ryutaro Hashimoto to the South Korean president urging improved bilateral relations.

The disputed islands, which have an area of 200 square meters, lie about 700 km northwest of Tokyo and about 450 km east of Seoul in the Sea of Japan.

They are surrounded by rich fishing grounds and the seabed is believed to contain extensive mineral deposits.

The dispute over the islands surfaced again recently as Japan began preparations for applying a 200-nautical-mile exclusive economic zone as stipulated in the UN Convention on the law of the sea.

The 1982 UN Treaty went into force last November.

In response to Japan's move, South Korea said it would build a breakwater off the small, uninhabited island.

Japan: Hashimoto-Yeltsin Talks Agenda Firms Up

OW1202060596 Tokyo YOMIURI SHIMBUN in Japanese 11 Feb 96 Morning Edition p 2

[FBIS Translated Text] The main topics to be taken up on the agenda at a meeting between Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto and Russian President Boris Yeltsin were firmed up as of 10 February. Hashimoto and Yeltsin are to hold their first meeting in occasion of their attendance at a nuclear safety summit to be held in Moscow on 19-20 April. Japan plans to place top priority on a territorial row with Russia over the Kuril Islands and seek progress in bilateral negotiations over this issue. In addition, Japan plans to insist that Russia establish a secure management program in regard to the use of atomic energy. At the Hashimoto-Yeltsin talks, Japan plans to table such issues as follows: 1) Securing safety in the operation of nuclear reactors; 2) disposal of radioactive wastes which became a problem as a result of Russia's dumping such wastes in the ocean; and 3) safe management in handling and storing plutonium and other radioactive substances.

The nuclear safety summit is to be held in occasion of the 10th anniversary of the Chernobyl incident. In his meeting with Yeltsin, Hashimoto reportedly plans to focus on Russia's problem over the safe use of atomic energy.

In regard to the safety of nuclear reactors, which is among the main topics of the Hashimoto-Yeltsin talks, Japan plans to insist that Russia establish a safety program regarding its outdated nuclear reactors which are in abundance in Russia in comparison with Western countries.

The problem of dumping radioactive wastes in the ocean refers to Russia's dumping low-level liquid radioactive wastes in the Sea of Japan which was continued until the autumn of 1993. Japan and Russia later agreed to construct a disposal facility in the vicinity of Vladivostok. The facility is expected to be completed within this year, and thus Japan apparently need not be concerned over the possibility of Russia's further dumping radioactive wastes in the ocean. However, Hashimoto plans to ask Yeltsin that Russia never again dump radioactive wastes in the Sea of Japan as well as other areas of the ocean and get his confirmation.

Japan: Article Assesses 'Jusen' Liquidation Plan

OW0802003996 Tokyo SHUKAN DAIYAMONDO in Japanese 20 Jan 96 pp 12-16

[Article by SHUKAN DAIYAMONDO editors Masafumi Tsujihiro and Shoyo Yutani: "The Proposed Jusen Liquidation Plan May Be Killed as the Conflict Between the Ministry of Finance and the Banks Heats Up"]

[FBIS Translated Text] On 8 January, Japan's six largest city banks held a meeting to discuss the liquidation of the nation's seven troubled housing loan companies, or jusen. The meeting was attended by each bank's senior executive in charge of planning. It was convened by Fuji Bank, which currently assumes the presidency of the Federation of Bankers Association of Japan. On the meeting table was the document concerning the Finance Ministry's plan to liquidate the jusen. Fuji Bank, which is currently in charge of negotiating the jusen issue with the financial authorities on behalf of the Federation, explained the details of the liquidation scheme. It also said that there was no alternative but to accept the proposed plan. This sparked an unprecedented stormy dispute among the participants, who have constantly been in touch with one another over the issue. The senior executives of Sanwa Bank and Sakura Bank strongly opposed the plan.

There is a good deal of popular misunderstanding about the current situation concerning the disposal of the seven housing loan companies. The public is not happy with the government's decision to use 685 billion yen in public funds to help write off the jusen's bad loans. But, the public believes that the government decided to adopt such a plan, because it obtained the consent of all parties involved in the jusen issue. The rise in stock market share prices after the announcement of the jusen liquidation plan proved that the plan was viewed by market participants as an adequate solution to the jusen issue. In other words, everyone thought that the jusen issue was by and large settled. However, that was not the case.

The reality is that no agreement has been reached yet between the Finance Ministry and the jusen's parent banks, as the latter strongly opposed the liquidation plan. Nevertheless, the Finance Ministry decided to go ahead with its plan, and it made the cabinet approve the plan despite of the lack of a consensus among the concerned parties. The Finance Ministry now intends to push the liquidation plan through the Diet. However, the plan may immediately die, once all its inconsistencies, which were sealed by the Finance Ministry, are disclosed during the Diet deliberation.

"We made a mistake in our synthesis. We cannot finalize the amount the founding banks should write off unless we rectify the mistake," a senior official of the Finance Ministry's Banking Bureau said frankly.

In a word, the jusen issue boils down to the following question: How can losses be apportioned rationally among the founding banks and other lender banks, the financial institutions affiliated with agricultural cooperatives, and the government?

The seven housing loan companies together have outstanding loans of some 13 trillion yen to various borrowers. Of this amount, a total of 6.3 trillion yen was estimated by the Finance Ministry to be "irrecoverable" (Category IV), and another 1.2 trillion was considered "almost irrecoverable" (Category III). Everyone working in the financial world knows that loans belonging to Category III and IV are bad loans that need immediate disposal. So, the problem is how to make the concerned parties share the initial lost amount of 7.5 trillion yen?

The Finance Ministry made the following calculation in the first place. Of the initial lost amount of 7.5 trillion yen, the parent banks would write off 3.5 trillion yen, which is the total of their outstanding loans to their jusen affiliates. The remaining 4 trillion yen would be shared by other lenders in proportion to the amount of their outstanding loans to the jusen; that is to say, the nonparent banks would have to write off 1.7 trillion yen, and the financial institutions affiliated with agricultural cooperatives would have to forgive 2.3 trillion yen.

In order to lighten the burden of the financial institutions affiliated with agricultural cooperatives, the Finance Ministry subsequently decided to deal with only "irrecoverable" loans and to transfer those belonging to Category III to a new corporation, which will be set up to manage leftover assets and liabilities of the jusen. When a senior executive of a founding bank protested against the Finance Ministry's idea, saying that loans belonging to Category III have to also be treated because they too are deemed lost, a high-ranking official of the Finance Ministry's Banking Bureau arrogantly said that the general public does not have such knowledge.

What the Finance Ministry did was to reduce the amount of initial losses from 7.5 trillion yen to 6.3 trillion yen by taking only "irrecoverable" loans into account; leave the burdens' of the founding and nonfounding banks unchanged; and lighten the burden of the financial institutions affiliated with agricultural cooperatives. Of the reduced lost amount of 6.3 trillion yen, if the founding banks were to write off 100 percent of their outstanding loans, and if the remaining were to be shared by other lenders in proportion to their lending, the nonparent banks would have to write off only 1.19 trillion yen, while the financial institutions affiliated with agricultural cooperatives would still have to bear 1.71 trillion yen. Despite this fact, the Finance Ministry, under heavy pressure from agricultural cooperatives, decided to place a greater burden on the nonfounding banks by maintaining their amount at 1.7 trillion yen.

This manipulation brought about a serious inconsistency. As the Finance Ministry's Banking Bureau was entirely devoted to working out a plan to solve the jusen issue at once by considering the seven troubled housing loan companies as a single entity, it did not pay attention to each company's specific conditions. Since each housing loan company did not borrow money from different financial institutions in the same proportion, many problems arise when the disposal scheme is applied separately to each housing loan company.

For instance, concerning the disposal of Chigin-Seiho Housing Loan Co., which mostly owes money to its founding banks, the financial institutions affiliated with agricultural cooperatives will have nothing to bear once the founding banks write off all their outstanding loans to Chigin-Seiho Housing Loan Co. The Banking Bureau tried to gloss over its mistake, by using such an affected term as "mistake in synthesis." However, this was just an elementary mistake on its part. Moreover, it seems that the Banking Bureau was not aware of its mistake until Chigin-Seiho Housing Loan Co. made a strong protest to the Finance Ministry, by underscoring the defect in the liquidation plan.

The problem of allocating losses among the concerned parties should not be seen as an internal quarrel among financial institutions to force others to share a greater burden. This is an important problem of rationality and logic. If banks will have to shoulder a greater burden without rational justification, they will be unable to prevent their shareholders from filing lawsuits charging improper use of corporate funds. The public thought that the point at issue had already moved from the allocation of initial losses to the allocation of subsequent losses. But in fact, no agreement has been reached yet on the allocation of initial losses.

The Amount of 530 Billion To Be Shared by the Agricultural Financial Institutions Was Made Unchangeable — "We Will Not Let Any Agricultural Financial Institutions Go Into Bankruptcy"

Until the last minute, neither the Finance Ministry's Budget Bureau nor the Prime Minister's Secretariat could imagine that it would be compelled to use public money to help write off the jusen's bad loans, because high-ranking officials of the Finance Ministry's Banking Bureau, including Director General Yoshimasa Nishimura, have being saying that their liquidation plan, under which banks will shoulder the greater burden, will be accepted by all the concerned parties. It is not very clear why the Banking Bureau could form such an optimistic view of the situation. Contrary to its expectations, the negotiations with the agriculture ministry over the liquidation plan broke down early in the morning of 15 December 1995.

It was only after the breakdown of the negotiations between the Agriculture and Finance Ministries that the Finance Ministry's Budget Bureau and the Prime Minister's Secretariat hurriedly began to work on the use of public funds. On 19 December, only four days after the breakdown of the negotiations, it was decided that the financial institutions affiliated with agricultural cooperatives will be asked to contribute only 530 billion yen, while 685 billion yen will come from the government's coffers. Such a solution was the most undesirable.

Even some officials of the Finance Ministry criticized it, saying, "The Banking Bureau failed to sell the financial institutions affiliated with agricultural cooperatives on its plan. So, the Budget Bureau hastily decided to use taxpayer money to make up for the shortfall, without thinking at all. Even a child could come up with such an easy solution."

Meanwhile, the financial institutions affiliated with agricultural cooperatives continued to assume a defiant attitude, saying: "The founding banks should bear the entire responsibility. The use of public funds is not aimed at rescuing us." The founding banks, which agreed to write off all their outstanding loans to the jusen, criticized that the financial institutions affiliated with agricultural cooperatives were putting the blame at the wrong door. Banks also became extremely distrustful of the Finance Ministry's Banking Bureau. If each concerned party says such things, why should public funds be used to liquidate the jusen's bad loans? Everything remained unclear. The lack of clear explanation further fueled the public anger. These were the results the government obtained for having decided to inject taxpayer money to help write off the jusen's bad loans, by neglecting the principle that public funds should be used only for the bailout of insolvent financial institutions.

Agricultural cooperatives exercised powerful political influence. Consequently, most politicians decided to work for them, in the hope of getting the cooperatives' support in the next general elections. Several Diet members even marched into the office of the Banking Bureau's Director General and threatened Director General Nishimura by saying, "If you want to apply bankruptcy procedures against the jusen, just go ahead. But we'll make you sorry later."

At the last minute, senior executives of each bank also spent several days visiting one politician after another. It was the first time that bank officials ever made a move over the Banking Bureau's head. In other words, bank officials could no longer count on the Finance Ministry, whose power had declined considerably. Despite their efforts, they were totally helpless against the power of agricultural cooperatives, which have a huge farming electorate.

Whether or not agricultural cooperatives exercised strong political influence, the Finance Ministry's Banking Bureau acted cowardly from the very beginning. It would not say that public funds will in fact be used to rescue the financial institutions affiliated with agricultural cooperatives. Why did the financial institutions affiliated with agricultural cooperatives end up having to contribute only 530 billion yen to the liquidation plan?

This amount was made up as follows: 130 billion yen will be borne by the National Association of Prefectural Mutual Insurance Federations of Agricultural Cooperatives; 200 billion will be borne by the National Association of Prefectural Credit Federations of Agricultural Cooperatives; and the remaining 200 billion yen by Norinchukin Bank, the central bank for agricultural cooperatives.

The National Association of Prefectural Credit Federations of Agricultural Cooperatives will not allot a burden to each member in proportion to the amount of its outstanding loans to the jusen; rather, it will ask all members to pool a total of 400 billion yen to create a common fund, which will be used to write off one portion of their outstanding loans to the jusen. By using this method, many prefectural credit federations may go into the red, but none of them will have liabilities in excess of assets. In brief, the agriculture ministry studied the problem from every angle in order not to let any financial institutions affiliated with agricultural cooperatives, particularly the financially weakened prefectural credit federations, go into bankruptcy. It concluded that the maximum tolerable burden would be 530 billion yen.

The agriculture ministry gave the following official explanation on how it arrived at the figure of 530 billion yen. The Finance Ministry once worked out a 10-year rehabilitation plan for the ailing jusen. The plan wanted the financial institutions affiliated with agricultural cooperatives to cut their interest rates on their loans to the jusen to 4.5 percent. Three years have passed since the implementation of the plan. Over the next seven years, the housing loan companies were supposed to pay a total of 530 billion yen, as interest payment, to the financial institutions affiliated with agricultural cooperatives. In brief, the agriculture ministry decided to make the amount of losses to be borne by the agricultural financial institutions equivalent to the amount of interests, which was supposed to be paid to them by the jusen. This explanation was totally unreasonable. Even the leader of a financial institution affiliated with agricultural cooperatives said that this was absurd.

At the very beginning, the Finance Ministry estimated that the financial institutions affiliated with agricultural cooperatives would be able to shoulder more than 1 trillion yen, with Norinchukin bearing 800 billion yen alone. It is not clear why this estimation was rejected by the financial institutions affiliated with agricultural cooperatives. According to an agriculture ministry official, Director General Nishimura of the Finance Ministry's Banking Bureau said, last November, that the agricultural financial institutions should have no problem if the amount to be borne is around 500 billion yen. This comment immediately made the agricultural financial institutions think that 500 billion yen would be just enough. The poor-spirited and undecided Finance Ministry was no match for the agriculture ministry and the financial institutions affiliated with agricultural cooperatives, which presented a strong united front against the enemy.

The Limit of the Banking Bureau, Which is Unable to Get Rid of Its Old Evil Methods

The government's plan to use 685 billion yen in public money to help write off the jusen's bad loans is not the end, but the beginning, of a serious problem. How will subsequent losses, which are expected to arise from the 1.2 trillion yen in "almost unrecoverable loans," be shared? "Almost unrecoverable" loans will be transferred from the housing loan companies to a debt-settlement entity, which will be set up to manage leftover assets and liabilities of the jusen. Who will finance the new corporation?

The banks bore the brunt of the attack from the Finance Ministry when the Banking Bureau launched an aggressive campaign on 15 December 1995, to make them accept its jusen liquidation plan. Director General Nishimura first called the senior executives of each bank to his office and urged them to accept the liquidation plan, under which the founding banks will write off all their outstanding loans; the nonfounding banks will write off 1.7 trillion yen; both founding and nonfounding banks will provide capital and loans to the debt-settlement entity; and both founding and nonfounding banks will also share subsequent losses. But everyone refused to accept the plan; so Nishimura then called the president of each housing loan company's governing parent bank to his office, on 16 and 17 December, and he officially urged each bank president to accept the Finance Ministry's jusen liquidation plan.

Needless to say, the founding banks have been insisting that all lenders should take responsibility, by sharing losses according to the amount of loans they have outstanding. However, every founding bank was, in fact, prepared to write off all its outstanding loans to the jusen as the maximum contribution. Meanwhile, if they were to make more contributions, shareholders, more particularly foreign stockholders, would sue them on charges of improper use of corporate funds. Bank presidents were warned by their legal advisers that if banks were to lose more than what they extended to their jusen affiliates, they would not be able to win shareholders' lawsuits.

As bank presidents offered stubborn resistance, Nishimura used the following arguments to force them into submission. He said:

— Even if the founding banks bear losses beyond the amount of loans they have outstanding to their jusen affiliates, this does not automatically mean that they will lose all lawsuits raised by their stockholders.

— The financial community thinks that it is not possible for the founding banks to share losses exceeding the amount of their outstanding loans. However, people in general do not view the matter in that light, not to mention that this is a minority opinion in the political world.

— When the Diet debate begins, the founding banks will be affected seriously, as their responsibility will be called into question severely. As low interest rates have made money cheaper and interest payments less for the banks, they realized record-high profits. Bank officials continue to get higher salaries than average. People are angry at these facts. The public, as well as politicians, cannot forgive the banks, which continue to think of only themselves.

— Each housing loan company carries a colossal sum of money in nonperforming loans. Thus, the jusen is irrational in itself. There is no rational solution to an irrational problem.

Applying bankruptcy procedures against the jusen is dangerous and unrealistic, because this will lead to social unrest. Besides, who will take the responsibility should the financial institutions affiliated with agricultural cooperatives go bankrupt?

Nishimura's arguments were illogical and irrational. Each housing loan company held a meeting of its parent banks, on the evening of 17 December and on the morning of 18 December. The president of each housing loan company's governing parent bank reported the outcome of the meeting to Nishimura on 18 December. The parent banks of five housing loan companies said that the maximum they can agree to share was the amount of loans they have outstanding. The parent banks of Nippon Housing Loan Co. said that they cannot meet the Finance Ministry's demand unless the entire picture of the liquidation plan is given. The parent banks of Chigin-Seiho Housing Loan Co. failed to reach an agreement of opinions.

Nishimura's next step was to separately contact the president of each founding bank of Nippon Housing Loan Co., in order to force them into submission. One bank president was told by Nishimura that his company may have its business license confiscated if he does not accept the liquidation plan. Another bank president was told that, even if he decides to resort to bankruptcy procedures, the Finance Ministry will not let the housing loan company go bankrupt.

Because the Finance Ministry's plan was scheduled to be presented at the cabinet meeting of December 19 for approval, Nishimura had no time to lose. He called a senior executive of Nippon Housing Loan Co. to his office, at 7 P.M. on December 18, and urged him to make his company's founding banks accept the plan, saying that the founding banks of other housing loan companies had already agreed to the plan. Unfortunately, his tactics did not work immediately, because some banks were founders of several housing loan companies. Consequently, they knew that what Nishimura said was not true.

When the Finance Ministry worked out the 10-year rehabilitation plan for the jusen three years ago, it also bulldozed the founding banks into accepting it. Once again, the Finance Ministry resorted to the same old methods to make them accept the liquidation plan. This is the most serious defect of the present financial administration. The Finance Ministry's Banking Bureau is unable to get rid of its old evil methods of forcing everyone into submission by showing off its broad powers, including discretionary power, and by deviating from certain rules. Are banks victims of such financial administration? We cannot say that they are really victims, because banks were also completely steeped in the old Finance Ministry-led "convoy" system.

The founding banks could use bankruptcy procedures as a trump card. If their jusen affiliates were declared bankrupt, all lenders would have to share losses in proportion to the amount of their outstanding loans. If the founding banks were to resort to bankruptcy, the financial institutions affiliated with agricultural cooperatives would sue the founding banks for damages on charges of neglecting their duty to rescue their affiliated companies. Whose case is right? In the end, the jusen issue will be clarified if everything is brought to court.

Founding bank presidents also suggested to the Banking Bureau that they might resort to bankruptcy. But they really had no earnest intention to do it, partly because they did not want to cause social unrest, and mostly because they did not want to make an enemy of the Finance Ministry, which has many other bureaus, such as the Budget Bureau, the Tax Bureau, and the Financial Bureau, on which banks have direct bearing. In other words, top management was unable to get rid of its old habit of maintaining cozy relations with the concerned authorities.

The legal circles were divided in opinion on the jusen issue. Some lawyers said that both founding and nonfounding banks will be able to win shareholders' lawsuits even if they accept shouldering their allotted burden for the jusen's initial losses. Others said that banks will not be able to win because the allotment of initial losses under the Finance Ministry's plan is not based on the principle of equality among lenders.

The founding banks' resistance against the Finance Ministry's Banking Bureau weakened in the end. After all, they did not have the courage to apply bankruptcy procedures against the jusen. Some founding banks even started saying that they may eventually accept the liquidation plan if the government takes a legal measure to prevent shareholders from suing them. However, each bank never said that it would definitely accept the liquidation plan. Despite such a situation, the Finance Ministry presented its plan to the Cabinet meeting for approval on 19 December. By announcing the long-awaited plan, the government tried to impress the public that the jusen issue was finally settled once and for all.

Banks Will Fall into Self-Contradiction If They Accept the Liquidation Plan As was mentioned at the beginning of this article, the details of the Finance Ministry's liquidation plan were given to the founding banks on 8 January. The contents of the plan were far from what they had expected. It required them to provide capital and loans to a new corporation, which will be established to manage leftover assets and liabilities of the jusen.

Nishimura said that subsequent losses would arise only from "almost unrecoverable" loans, which were estimated at 1.2 trillion yen. However, this was not true. It is certain that subsequent losses will increase in the future. It is already widely known that disposing of real estate held as collateral on bad loans is generally very difficult. For instance, in some cases, properties held as collateral happened to be sold to third parties, which have no intention to pay the mortgagees. In other cases, properties held as collateral are legally occupied by short-term tenants.

This is why the Government plans to dispatch policemen and prosecutors to the debt-settlement entity. If the government wants to invest the new corporation with greater power, revision of the Civil Execution Act will become indispensable. Unfortunately, there is no sign that the government will buckle down to the task of working out such a drastic measure to smooth the liquidation of bad loans.

Meanwhile, the argument that subsequent losses will not increase if the new corporation does its best to dispose of real estate held as collateral, is also wrong. In the case of "unrecoverable" loans, the mortgages of real estate held as collateral exceed official land values assessed by the taxation authorities. In the case of "almost unrecoverable" loans, the mortgages of real estate are equivalent to 70 percent to 100 percent of official land values. For other loans, mortgages of real estate are less than 70 percent of official land values. Real estate held as collateral never sells at prices higher than 70 percent of official land values. In general, such properties are sold at half the official land values. As a result, the more the debt-settlement entity sells real estate held as collateral on bad loans, the more the subsequent losses will increase.

In other words, it is certain that one portion of the loans to be extended by the founding banks to the debt-settlement entity will end up unrecoverable. For the founding banks, financing the new corporation automatically means bearing losses beyond the amount of loans they have outstanding to the jusen. This is why Sanwa Bank and Sakura Bank strongly opposed the Finance Ministry's plan. Fuji Bank tried to obtain their consent by saying: "Now, the Finance Ministry has little power. If we do not accept this plan, the Finance Ministry, under heavy pressure from the politicians, may prepare another plan with a much heavier burden on the founding banks."

However, if the founding banks accept the Finance Ministry's liquidation plan, they will fall into self-contradiction, since they have been stressing that the maximum they could bear was the amount of loans they have outstanding to their jusen affiliates. The essence of the banking business will be called into question if the founding banks agree to extend loans, by knowing that the money would probably be lost. In such a case, they are certain to lose shareholders' lawsuits.

A lawyer, who is well known in the financial world, advised the founding banks that they had better not apply bankruptcy procedures against their jusen affiliates, because they will not be able to collect most of their debts in the end, and because this will inevitably lead to political and social unrest. Meanwhile, the same lawyer told the founding banks that they should not accept the Finance Ministry's liquidation plan, because they will inevitably lose shareholders' lawsuits if they accept it.

The Finance Ministry will probably try to push its plan ahead by saying that the subsequent losses will be limited to 1.2 trillion yen. However, when the Diet debate on the jusen issue starts, the Finance Ministry is certain to bear the brunt of severe criticism.

No agreement has been reached yet on the allotment of the jusen's initial losses. It is even more difficult to reach an agreement on the apportionment of subsequent losses. Nevertheless, the Finance Ministry will try to ram its liquidation plan through the Diet, while applying further pressure to the banks. However, once the Diet summons a founding bank's top executive as a witness, and once this person reveals that the plan is not feasible due to the lack of a consensus among the concerned parties, controversy will rage around this point. In such a case, there is a possibility of the liquidation plan being shelved.

It is true that banks have not carried out full restructuring yet. It is also true that no bank president has resigned his post to take responsibility for having accumulated huge bad loans. These two points should be denounced at the Diet. However, people should not forget that blaming the banks for their self-seeking attitude and examining the proposed liquidation scheme are problems of two different levels.

Japan: Reports Say 17 Politicians Received 'Jusen' Donations

OW1002090396 Tokyo KYODO in English 0757 GMT 10 Feb 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, Feb. 10 KYODO — Seventeen incumbent and former Diet members received 250 million yen in donations from major borrowers from failed housing loan lenders over a 10-year period from 1985 to 1994, reports on political funds submitted to the Home Affairs Ministry showed Saturday [10 February].

The reports revealed that the donations were made to political organizations of the 17 politicians by 21 borrowers either in the names of the companies or their presidents.

The recipients included Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto, who is the president of the dominant coalition party, the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), and former Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu, who is the former head of the main opposition party Shinshinto (New Frontier Party). Eight former cabinet ministers were also among the recipients.

Annual contributions to each organization ranged from 1 million yen to 4.5 million yen.

The total amount of donations dropped to about 14 million yen in 1994 after hitting a high of some 40 million yen in 1990 before the burst of Japan's assets-inflated bubble economy.

Hashimoto said in Friday's session of the House of Representatives budget committee that he received a total of 9.88 million yen from four major borrowers from housing loan companies, known as jusen, which will be liquidated under a government scheme using at least 685 billion yen in taxpayers' money.

Four politicians received donations of more than 10 million yen, the reports showed.

Kosuke Ito, an LDP member and a former parliamentary vice minister of the National Land Agency, was the top recipient, they said.

Ito received a total of 93 million yen in donations from the chairman and president of Fuji Building Co., which was among the top 50 borrowers from jusen companies.

The total amount of donations to Ito reached 102 million yen if the contributions in 1983 and 1984 are added.

Masaaki Nakayama, also an LDP member and a former director general of the Management and Coordination Agency, ranked second with receipts amounting to 51.77 million yen.

Third on the list was Kanju Sato, a former home affairs minister and currently secretary general of the LDP's coalition partner, the Social Democratic Party (SDP), with 31.85 million yen, followed by Seishiro Eto, an LDP member and a former Defense Agency director general, with 21.7 million yen.

The LDP is the main force in the tripartite ruling coalition while the SDP is No. 2 and New Party Sakigake [Harbinger] is the smallest among the trio.

Misoji Sakamoto, an LDP member, who was chief cabinet secretary under Kaifu, received 9 million yen. Shintaro Ishihara, a novelist-turned politician and a former transport minister, got 3.85 million yen. Ishihara quit the House of Representatives last year.

Annual donations from the jusen borrowers, which totaled 17.46 million yen in 1985, rose to 28.16 million yen in 1986 and to a high 39.12 million yen in 1990, the reports showed.

The government's jusen liquidation scheme has drawn fire from the opposition camp, mass media and the general public for using a large amount of taxpayers' money to help mop up losses.

The seven housing loan companies' initial losses will reach 6.41 trillion yen at the time of liquidation. The Hashimoto cabinet has endorsed a final plan to use taxpayers' money to cover half of any future losses resulting from disposing of bad loans at the mortgage companies. The additional loss is expected to reach 1.2 trillion yen.

Japan: LDP Decides To Avoid Accepting 'Jusen' Banks Donations

OW0902092096 Tokyo KYODO in English GMT 9 Feb 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, Feb. 9 KYODO — The Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) decided Friday [9 February] to refrain from receiving political donations from banks that founded housing loan firms to be liquidated with the use of public funds, party officials said.

The LDP, led by Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto, agreed at a meeting of the party's executives that it will take the measure for a certain period.

The banking industry donated 830 million yen, or about 20 percent, of 4.1 billion yen in political donations the LDP received from corporations in 1994.

At the meeting, LDP Secretary General Koichi Kato conveyed Hashimoto's request to avoid taking donations from the banks "from the viewpoint of making the housing loan issue easy to understand for the public," the officials said.

Kato told a press conference that the banks the LDP will refrain from receiving political donations from are the founding banks of the seven failed housing loan firms, known as "jusen.".

Kato suggested, however, that the LDP will lift the measure as soon as the housing loan issue is resolved.

The government has drawn up a scheme in the fiscal 1996 budget to spend 685 billion yen in taxpayers' money to liquidate the seven mortgage companies. The scheme has drawn sharp fire from the opposition, the media and the general public.

Japan: 'News Focus' on Possible Lifting of Holding Companies Ban

OW1202112696 Tokyo KYODO in English 0955 GMT 12 Feb 96

["News Focus: Will Lifting of Holding Company Ban Revive Zaibatsu?"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, Feb. 12 KYODO — A total lifting of the ban on holding companies could revive the "zaibatsu" conglomerates that worked as military-industrial organs during World War II, some business and labor leaders say.

The Fair Trade Commission (FTC) is reviewing the ban on holding companies stipulated in the Antimonopoly Law of 1947.

The Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), the largest force in the three-party coalition, wants the ban lifted in principle as long as the lifting does not result in "excessive concentration" of power to control the business activities of group companies.

On the other hand, the Social Democratic Party (SDP), the second largest, and New Party Sakigake [Harbinger], the smallest, remain more cautious. Some SDP members maintain that the definition of excessive concentration is unclear.

The SDP, the Japanese Trade Union Confederation (Rengo) and some business leaders are worried that holding companies would enable major firms from former zaibatsu conglomerates to further bolster their sway in the economy.

At a press conference last month, Kazuo Inamori, chairman of Kyocera Corp., said the liberalization of holding companies would create monopolistic power in the economy, which would lead to the rebirth of zaibatsu.

Behind these anxieties is the fact that even 50 years after the zaibatsu were dissolved under the U.S. occupation of Japan after World War II, former zaibatsu group companies are forming new groups and playing leading roles in the nation's economy.

The stalemate in talks among the ruling coalition parties has raised the possibility of the government's adoption of a bill to revise the Antimonopoly Law, originally scheduled for Friday, being putting off for about a month.

According to the FTC, there are six major company groups in Japan — Mitsui (26 companies), Mitsubishi (29), Sumitomo (20), Fuji Bank (29), Sanwa Bank (44) and Dai-Ichi Kangyo Bank (48). Mitsui, Mitsubishi and Sumitomo have their roots in prewar zaibatsu groups.

The companies account for just 0.007 percent of the number of Japanese businesses, excluding financial institutions, according to an annual FTC report for fiscal 1994.

In terms of capital, however, the six groups of companies accounted for 15.3 percent of total Japanese corporate capital in 1992. It is apparent that capital centers on the six groups in Japan, the FTC report shows.

Similarly, the combined assets of the six groups account for 12.5 percent of the total assets of Japanese companies, while their sales took 13.8 percent.

Moreover, the groups' financial institutions hold shares in almost all their group companies and vice versa in cross- shareholding practices. The financial institutions also send executives to about 40 percent of their group companies.

As the six groups' influence is still very strong, FTC officials said that if their controlling power grows further, it could have adverse effects on the Japanese economy.

For a decade, however, the concentration of capital and assets in the groups' companies and the number of executives dispatched from their financial institutions to group firms have been flat or declining.

Facing competition from foreign companies, Japanese businesses have been promoting trade not only with their group companies but also with others. Also, since the burst in the early 1990s of the bubble economy of the late 1980s, more Japanese companies have been selling the shares of their group companies.

"So I cannot imagine that prewar zaibatsu groups will come alive again," says Ryuichiro Tachi, professor emeritus at the University of Tokyo.

His view is shared by many others, even those who are worried about possible adverse effects of the lifting of the ban on holding companies.

Japan: Ruling Parties Agree on Drafting MOF Plan Jointly

OW0902002996 Tokyo ASAHI SHIMBUN in Japanese 8 Feb 96 Morning Edition p 2

[FBIS Translated Text] Koichi Kato, secretary general of the Liberal Democratic Party [LDP], met with Kanju Sato, secretary general of the Social Democratic Party [SDP], to discuss the issue of reorganizing the Ministry of Finance [MOF] in Tokyo on the afternoon of 7 February, and they reached an accord that ruling coalition parties should cooperate to speed up drafting concrete plans. The ruling parties have at a breath made full-fledged moves toward reorganizing the MOF. For example, the SDP decided on the same day to set up "a panel to study reform of the MOF" with Shigeru Ito, chairman of the SDP policy research council, as its chairman. However, arguments that caution should be taken in handling this issue have also been voiced within the ruling parties. Additionally, a warning against the argument preferring speed to elaboration is smoldering within the ruling parties. "The establishment of the

Finance Agency [kinyu-cho] may result in the MOF gaining even greater power after the reform," (as stated by a senior LDP executive).

The LDP's Headquarters for the Promotion of Administrative Reform (with Kiyoshi Mizuno as its head) has decided to hold a discussion meeting sometime next week to concentrate on exchanging views on reform of the MOF's financial administration and the MOF's own reorganization. Financial experts serving as advisers to the headquarters will also be invited to participate in the discussion.

While soliciting expert's opinions, the SDP is in favor of the panel on MOF reform drafting the plan Secretary General Sato said: "It would be insufficient to merely establish the Finance Agency and the Revenue Agency to replace the MOF's Banking Bureau and the Budget Bureau." In this way, he stated his view that the MOF reform should be promoted while paying attention to the overall reform of all the agencies and ministries under the central government.

Touching on the MOF reform at the news conference held on the evening of 7 February, Wataru Kubo, deputy prime minister and concurrently finance minister, said: "When deliberations on the budget bill are finished, I will try to work out a draft plan." Thus, Finance Minister Kubo has for the first time indicated his intention to bring out his own draft plan.

Ostensibly, the MOF itself, which has now become the center of attention, is taking a wait-and-see attitude. It is because MOF bureaucrats must have decided that since their expert knowledge will be needed to reform the financial inspection system, they will be able to influence the various parties drafting the plans.

Under such circumstances, concerns have been voiced within the ruling parties over the possibility that if efforts should be made to draft reform plans in haste, the MOF itself would become directly involved in the process. Concerning the concept of "establishing a new financial agency" as proposed in some quarters, it has been argued that "since the Stock and Exchange Surveillance Commission was established due to stock scandals and set up as an internal organ under the MOF, no tangible results have been achieved," and that "even when the financial agency is set up, it will not be a measure to promote administrative reform if it has a close relationship with the MOF," (as stated by a former cabinet member from the LDP.) Therefore, some factors still remain that may affect the speed and orientation of MOF reform that has surfaced as a measure to deal with public opinion in connection with the jusen [housing loan companies] issue.

Japan: Hashimoto on Nation's Role in Global Stability

OW1102043196 Tokyo KYODO in English 0423 GMT 11 Feb 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, Feb. 11 KYODO — Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto vowed Sunday [11 February] that Japan would make further efforts to contribute to stability and development in the world in a speech made at a government-backed ceremony celebrating National Foundation Day.

At Hibiya Public Hall in central Tokyo, Hashimoto said Japan "should make further efforts to stabilize and develop the world by establishing ideas that can be accepted in international society."

Hashimoto also expressed his resolve to create a society filled with vigor and confidence by implementing political, administrative, economic and social reforms.

National Foundation Day was established originally as Kigensetsu (Empire Day) by the Meiji government to celebrate the day when Jimmu, Japan's legendary first emperor, was said to have ascended to the throne in 660 B.C.

The holiday was abolished in 1948 as part of democratic reforms but restored in 1966 under a different name.

Japan: NASDA Launches Domestically Produced J-1 Rocket

OW1202021996 Tokyo KYODO in English 0125 GMT 12 Feb 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tanegashima, Japan, Feb. 12 KYODO — Japan on Monday [12 February] launched a new domestically-developed rocket carrying an experimental plane that is part of a Japanese plan to develop its own space shuttle program.

The 33-meter J-1 rocket lifted off from the National Space Development Agency of Japan (NASDA) Space Center on Tanegashima Island in southwestern Japan at 8:00 A.M.

The launch was originally scheduled for Feb. 1, but had been postponed four times due to technical troubles and unfavorable weather conditions.

The rocket, the first of the J-1 series, carried into space the Hyflex Craft, an experimental hypersonic plane designed to collect data that will be used in developing Hope, a Japanese version of the space shuttle.

The J-1 rocket reached an altitude of 110 kilometers 3 minutes and 40 seconds after the liftoff. Eighteen seconds later, the rocket released Hyflex, which reentered the atmosphere and splashed down in the Pacific Ocean at around 8:20 A.M.

Although the first J-1 is a two-stage rocket, it is usually a three-stage vehicle equipped with the same solid fuel boosters as the H-2 rocket, the first major space vehicle developed and manufactured entirely by Japan.

The J-1 was developed to send small satellites into orbit. Its launch cost is estimated at 5 billion yen as compared with the 19 billion yen cost in launching the H-2.

The NASDA later said it abandoned efforts to retrieve the experimental plane, named Hyflex, after it sank into the sea off Chichijima Island in the Ogasawara Islands chain.

Japan: Official Says Rocket Launch 'Cannot Be Called Successful'

OW1202090896 Tokyo KYODO in English 0836 GMT 12 Feb 96

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Tanegashima, Japan, Feb. 12 KYODO — [passage omitted] The J-1 rocket reached an altitude of 110 kilometers 3 minutes and 40 seconds after the liftoff. Eighteen seconds later, the rocket released Hyflex, which reentered the atmosphere and splashed down in the sea off Chichijima Island in the Ogasawara Island chain about 1,000 km south of Tokyo at around 8:20 A.M. [2320 GMT]

Hyflex sent data on 12 of the 14 items, including temperatures outside the shuttle during its reentry into the atmosphere, to a monitoring station on Ogasawara Island, NASDA [National Space Development Agency of Japan] officials said.

The NASDA was scheduled to retrieve Hyflex to collect data on damage to the shuttle during its reentry into the atmosphere, but failed to do so because it sank in the sea after a 3-meter-long nylon rope linking the shuttle with a floating tube was cut off, they said.

Hyflex was jointly developed by NASDA and the National Aerospace Laboratory, an affiliate of the Science and Technology Agency.

A NASDA official said data on the 12 items collected included those needed to develop Hope, but a Science and Technology Agency official said the launch cannot be called successful because data on two items was not collected. [passage omitted]

Japan: Labor Chief Anticipates Tight Credit Policy

OW0902054096 Tokyo KYODO in English 0327 GMT 9 Feb 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, Feb. 9 KYODO — Labor Minister Takanobu Nagai said Friday [9 February] the time will come for the government to tighten credit policy in the not so distant future.

Nagai told a news conference after Friday's regular cabinet session the step will naturally be taken by taking the financial trend into account.

He made the remark in connection with a government economic report released Friday declaring de facto economic recovery.

Nagai supported pay hikes for workers this spring to help boost personal consumption.

Pay raises this spring will bear an impact on expansion of domestic demand, he added.

Japan: Firms Agree on Standardization of LCD Glass Size

OW1102035596 Tokyo KYODO in English 0322 GMT 11 Feb 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, Feb. 11 KYODO — Twelve Japanese electronics makers have agreed to standardize the size of glass for liquid crystal displays (LCDs) used in notebook-type personal computers to cut costs for production equipment by about 20 percent, a business daily reported Sunday [11 February].

The basic agreement was reached by the companies, which include Sharp Corp., Toshiba Corp., NEC Corp., Hitachi Ltd., Hosiden Corp., Matsushita Electric Industrial Co., Mitsubishi Electric Corp., Sony Corp. and Sanyo Electric Co., the NIHON KEIZAI SHIMBUN said.

They agreed to standardize the glass size to the present maximum of 650 millimeters in length, 550 mm in breadth and 1.1 or 0.7 mm in thickness, the daily said.

For a plant that produces 200,000 10-inch LCD panels a month, capital investment of about 50 billion yen can be cut by about 10 billion yen through the standardization, it said.

Japan's LCDs shipments and capital investment will amount to about 600 billion yen and 250 billion yen, respectively, in fiscal 1995 ending March, the daily said.

The antitrust watchdog Fair Trade Commission (FTC) is evaluating the agreement, it said.

Subject to the FTC's approval, the Japanese industry will propose the standardization to companies in the United States, South Korea, Taiwan and other countries, it said.

Japan: Metal Fatigue Said Caused Monju Reactor Accident

OW0902143296 Tokyo KYODO in English 1323 GMT 9 Feb 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tsuruga, Japan, Feb. 9 KYODO — The sodium-leakage accident at Japan's prototype fast-breeder reactor "Monju" appears to have been caused by metal fatigue in a temperature sensor caused by vibration, investigators said Friday [9 February].

The investigators suggested the possible cause of the accident after completing the removal of the broken temperature sensor from pipes containing the sodium coolant.

Officials of the Science and Technology Agency told a press conference that they detected more than had been expected of "something like a broken surface" in a preliminary visual inspection of the sensor.

The governmental Power Reactor and Nuclear Fuel Development Corp. (Donen), which operates the reactor, will soon send the removed sensor to the Japan Atomic Energy Research Institute's laboratory in Tokai, Ibaraki Prefecture, for more intensive examination.

The leak occurred at the point where the sensor was inserted into the pipe and experts at the institute's Tokai laboratory will examine the surface of the broken part under an electron microscope.

Donen shut down Monju, some 350 kilometers west of Tokyo in Tsuruga, Fukui Prefecture, on Dec. 8 after nonradioactive liquid sodium leaked from the secondary cooling system.

On Friday morning, technicians dressed in white nylon mesh overalls and masks to filter out dust resumed work on the removal of the sensor, while experts from a Science and Technology Agency working group and local government and fire department officials looked on.

They removed a 30-centimeter-long oval section of the pipe containing the sensor.

It will be photographed and inspected by officials at the reactor site before being sent to Tokai in a clear plastic container filled with argon gas to prevent any change to its surface.

Monju began operating last August and was scheduled eventually to generate 280 megawatts of electricity in June this year.

North Korea

DPRK:'Possible Dispute' in Korea 'Pretext' for U.S. Troops in Japan

SK1102070096 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0645 GMT 11 Feb 96

["The U.S. Schemes To Keep Its Troops in Japan Under Pretext of Korean Situation" — KCNA headline]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, February 11 (KCNA) — The acting assistant secretary of state of the United States, in talks with a delegation of the Japanese ruling parties in Washington on February 8, reportedly said that U.S. troops stationed in Japan cannot be reduced because of the situation of the Korean peninsula.

He raised a "great change" in the situation of the Korean peninsula as a precondition of the Japan-based U.S. military reduction, saying that the presence of the U.S. Marine Corps in Okinawa, Japan, is necessary to cope with "possible dispute" in the peninsula and its vicinity.

The U.S. has kept its Armed Forces in Japan under the pretext of the strained situation of the Korean peninsula, seeking military adventures to stifle the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, while Japan intends to reinvade Korea through military alliance with the U.S., chiming in with the U.S. allegation about "threat from North Korea."

DPRK: U.S. Official's Comments on 'North Korea Issue' Rejected

SK1102065996 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0647 GMT 11 Feb 96

["Dangerous Intention Camouflaged by Sophism" — KCNA headline]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, February 11 (KCNA) — Joseph Nye, former assistant secretary of defense of the United States, told a press conference on February 8 that the "danger of the North Korean issue" is serious much more than in any other regions of the world, according to a news report.

He said the main reason that the United States keeps 100,000 troops in the East Asian region is just the "North Korean issue," ruling out the possibility of the U.S. military withdrawal from Japan.

His remarks fully revealed again that the U.S. bellicose elements are trying to make the non-existent "threat from North Korea" a fait accompli and, under its pretext, stifle the Democratic People's Republic of Korea by military strength.

DPRK: Provocative U.S. War Exercises Aggravate Tense Situation

SK1102070396 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0631 GMT 11 Feb 96

["Maneuverings Aggravating Situation" — KCNA headline]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, February 11 (KCNA) — It was announced on Friday [9 February] that the U.S. troops would stage war exercises in South Korea, a radio report from Seoul said.

According to the announcement, the U.S. troops will have a bombing drill codenamed "Coronet Regatta" with two B-52 strategic bombers and other planes of the U.S. Air Force from the U.S. mainland in coordination with the puppet air force on Feb. 13-15.

Along with this drill, the "Valiant Usher 96-2K" exercise of the U.S. Navy present in South Korea, which was started on Friday, will last ten days till Feb. 18, the report said.

The war exercises by the U.S. imperialist aggression forces and the South Korean puppets are the provocative moves which further aggravate the tense situation of the Korean peninsula.

The U.S. bellicose forces and the South Korean puppets must stop their maneuverings against peace.

DPRK: U.S.-ROK Planned Bombing Exercise Said 'Provocation'

SK1202035896 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0346 GMT 12 Feb 96

["NODONG SINMUN on Kim Yong-sam Group's War Provocation Moves" — KCNA headline]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, February 12 (KCNA) — NODONG SINMUN today comments on the provocative military actions of the Kim Yong-sam-bossed bellicose elements of South Korea against the northern half of Korea which are nowadays getting all the more undisguised.

The Kim Yong-sam group plans to stage a bombing exercise in South Korea together with the U.S. Air Force, including B-52 strategic bombers from February 13 to 15, which is part of the "Coronet Regatta" military manoeuvres. The "Valiant Usher 96-2K" involving a U.S. aircraft carrier, a naval exercise which began on February 9, will last till February 18.

No doubt, the manoeuvres are aimed at the invasion of the northern half of Korea, the analyst says, and continues:

The war hysterics of the traitorous Kim Yong-sam clique against the North has reached the extreme.

They are running wild to find a way out of the worst crisis caused by the "slush fund case" in provoking an adventurous war against the North with the backing of outside forces. As a consequence, the Korean Peninsula is exposed to a hair-trigger danger.

We will square accounts with the Kim Yong-sam group of warmaniacs who are trying to drive the nation into nuclear holocaust and will not remain an onlooker to their crimes.

Our people and the People's Army are heightening vigilance against the reckless war gamble of the traitorous Kim Yong-sam clique, a herd of nuclear war servants of outside forces and warmaniacs. If they unleash a war in this inviolable land, they will face a thousandfold punishment.

DPRK Article Denounces Imperialists' 'Moves for Domination'

SK1002094496 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0937 GMT 10 Feb 96

["Vicious and Crafty Moves of Imperialists for Domination" — KCNA headline]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, February 10 (KCNA) — The Feb. 9 edition of NODONG SINMUN carried a signed article denouncing the imperialists' vicious and crafty moves for domination.

The essence of dominationism is to violate the sovereignty of other countries and nations and to oppress and control the other nations and people.

Though the Cold War has come to an end, the dominationist nature of the imperialists remains unchanged, the article says, and goes on:

The imperialists' dominationist moves are committed very craftily.

One of those is urging other countries to adopt "multi-party system," "democracy" and "human rights of Western style."

By "multi-party system" and "democracy" the imperialists mean their own system.

They urged mostly developing countries to adopt "multi-party system" and "democracy" after some socialist countries collapsed.

Under the pretext of "mediation" and "settlement" of difficulties in some countries, the imperialists are interfering in their internal affairs and are trying to gradually hold them in their hands.

They charge some countries with "human rights" problem to interfere in their internal affairs and establish their political domination.

"Aid" and "cooperation" of imperialists are economic expedients for realising their dominationist purpose.

The imperialists are infiltrating deep into economic field of developing countries under the pretext of "aid" and "cooperation," taking advantage of economic difficulties facing these countries.

They are trying to realise their dominationist ambition through international organisations.

In the United Nations a small number of big powers exercise privileges, behave high-handedly and attempt to force their will on other countries.

A great deal of matters are disposed of in favour of the aggressive and dominationist purposes of a few big powers and western powers.

The undisguised acts of imperialists for domination are very dangerous. The situation calls upon all the countries and peoples aspiring for independence and progress to turn out as one in the struggle to smash dominationism of imperialists.

DPRK Article Endorses 1996 as 'Year of Peace and National Unity'

SK1002094696 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0941 GMT 10 Feb 96

["Just Proposal for Peace and Peaceful Reunification" — KCNA headline]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, February 10 (KCNA) — The proposal for making this "a year of peace and great national unity", which was made by the joint meeting of political parties and public organizations in the northern half of Korea, is a timely, positive step to reorient the worsening situation in Korea to a phase of detente, reconciliation and peace, says NODONG SINMUN in a signed article today.

Confrontation and war bring nothing but harm to the Korean nation.

Our peaceful stand and will for peaceful reunification will remain unchanged, the article says, and continues:

The primary task facing the Korean nation at present is to attain a firm unity among the fellow countrymen in the North, South and overseas under the banner of peace and reunification and launch a struggle to foil the moves of bellicose forces and defend peace.

The proposal to make this "a year of peace and great national unity" through united efforts of the North, South and overseas represents the patriotic peaceful stand and will of the Workers' Party and government of Korea to promote the nation's great unity on all accounts so as to defend peace of the country, protect the fellow countrymen from war disaster and accelerate the cause of national reunification.

If the Koreans in the North, South and overseas pool their hearts and strength, transcending the differences in ideology and system, the cause of great national unity can certainly be achieved. And any provocative moves of bellicose force can be frustrated, the peace of the country be defended and national reunification, the cherished desire of the nation, be realized.

DPRK: Japan's 'Crisis Management Law' Aimed at Korean Peninsula

SK1002091896 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0914 GMT 10 Feb 96

["Japan Schemes To Arrange 'Crisis Management Law'" — KCNA headline]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, February 10 (KCNA) — The Japanese Defense Agency is going ahead with the establishment of legal foundations for reinvading the Korean peninsula, according to a news report.

Speaking at the Council for Research Into International Affairs of the House of Councillors on February 7, the Defense Department director of the Defense Agency referred to the issue of "crisis management law." He pledged to examine the issue as quickly as possible, saying "discussions have been underway in the government on what system is necessary to cope with crisis from outside and on how to examine it."

Commenting on his remarks, the Japanese YOMIURI SHIMBUN February 8 said they revealed the willingness to facilitate the arrangement of the law under the simulated conditions of "contingency" in the Korean peninsula, etc.

Japan's scheme to arrange "crisis management law" aimed at the Korean peninsula has made the Democratic People's Republic of Korea keep a close eye on it.

DPRK: Red Cross Denounces ROK for Escalating 'Anti-North Campaign'

SK1102072896 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0719 GMT 11 Feb 96

["Red Cross Society Spokesman on S. Korea's Anti-North Campaign" — KCNA headline]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, February 11 (KCNA) — A spokesman for the Central Committee of the Red Cross Society of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea released a statement today denouncing the South Korean puppets for escalating the anti-DPRK campaign.

The statement says:

The Kim Yong-sam group of South Korea, through the puppet Red Cross and "government"-serving media, are groundlessly alleging that "mass defection" is expected from people in the North. They have said that, to cope with the situation, setting up large "refugee camps" in areas North of the River Han and in border areas of China and Russia has been under discussion, big tents and large food- supplying places have been arranged for "refugees" and overall "legislative steps" including the revision of "law on protection of defectors" have been examined. Worse still, the puppets have also said a unification program to cope with "rapid change" in the North's system has been put in a concrete form by each ministry and agency.

This is another intolerable provocation against the North.

Our people are devotedly working hard to defend and further develop their socialism centred on the popular masses, with great national pride of having respected General Kim Chong-il, a peerless great man and the lodestar of national reunification, as their great leader.

"Refuge" is unimaginable for our people, who have overcome all difficulties with confidence and optimism, sharing the destiny with the leader and the party, in perfect harmony with them. On the contrary, many people who had worried themselves about the crimes they committed against the country and the nation came over to the North from South Korea and abroad and started with a clean sheet under benevolent politics.

Misrepresenting this stark fact, the Kim Yong-sam group are expecting that some "political problems will occur in the North," while clamouring about "defection" and "refugee camps." This only clearly shows that they are despicable traitors preoccupied with the anti-North campaign and "unification of the country by absorption of the North."

The Central Committee of the DPRK Red Cross Society bitterly condemns the South Korean puppets' anti-North campaign, considering it a desperate effort of those overcome by the ever growing might of the North and a premeditated and deliberate move to further deteriorate the inter-Korean relations and chill the ardent desire of the fellow countrymen for the country's reunification.

Their allegation was prompted by the purpose of evading public demand for making public of the "presidential election" fund and the punishment of all the culprits involved in the May 18 Kwangju bloodbath and winning the puppet parliamentary election.

This fact proves that the Kim Yong-sam group's call for "dialogue" and "cooperation" is a lie.

We will never remain an onlooker to their provocations. If they continue slandering the North, they will have to blame themselves for grave consequences.

DPRK: Kim Yong-sam Group Denounced on Nuclear Power Plants Plan

SK1002040796 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0328 GMT 10 Feb 96

["Nuclear Project in S. Korea Denounced" — KCNA headline]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, February 10 (KCNA) — The Kim Yong-sam group are scheming to build large-scale nuclear facilities involving nuclear power plants and a nuclear waste depository in Kosong county, South Korean Kangwon Province.

In this regard, the mission in Japan of the National Democratic Front of South Korea published a statement on Wednesday denouncing the scheme and strongly urging its immediate cancellation.

Their scheme is a premeditated provocation intended to worsen the North-South relations and an anti-national act which reveals their colors as nuclear fanatics, the statement said.

It called upon the Japanese people, anti-nuke peace organizations and peaceloving peoples of the world to launch an international solidarity movement so as to check and frustrate the Kim Yong-sam group's dangerous moves to build nuclear facilities.

DPRK: Kim Yong-sam Assailed for 'Election Rigging'

SK1002043996 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0306 GMT 10 Feb 96

["Who Should Be Jailed?" — KCNA headline]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, February 10 (KCNA) — The traitor Kim Yong-sam of South Korea recently ordered his servants to "round up all election offenders" and "strictly prosecute them."

NODONG SINMUN today says the fact revealed his fascist trick to check the democratic forces' struggle against him and the "New Korea Party" at the point of bayonet and block the opposition parties' "election campaign" under the pretext of "roundup of election offenders."

As for the Kim Yong-sam group, they are special-class "election offenders" who rigged "returns" in past "elections" in South Korea with the backing of fascist repressive forces, the paper says in a commentary.

It further says:

The traitor Kim Yong-sam seated himself on the "presidential chair" with the help of more than 1,000 billion won including 520 billion won given by the traitor No Tae-u supporting him in the "presidential election."

According to South Korea's "presidential election law," the traitor Kim Yong-sam is the chief "election offender" and a special- class culprit who should be jailed before anyone else.

It goes without saying that the puppets, who have been accustomed to election rigging with fascist suppression and fraud, will rig their "returns" in the forthcoming "parliamentary election" in the same way.

If a fair and clean election is to be held in South Korea as hoped by the people, the traitor Kim Yong-sam, the chieftain of election rigging, should be removed first.

DPRK: Article Extols Achievements of Kim Il-song in Building WPK

SK0802070396 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 0900 GMT 6 Feb 96

[NODONG SINMUN 6 February special article: "Historic Achievements in Brilliantly Realizing the Leader's Cause of Party Building"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The glorious Workers Party of Korea [WPK] is Comrade Kim Il-song's party which is called together with the revered name of the great leader [suryong]. Today, our party members and people, when they mention the WPK, are to depict the benevolent image of the fatherly leader [suryong] in their minds. Also, when they think about our party's high dignity and honor, they are also to recall the traces of respected and beloved Comrade Kim Chong-il's glorious leadership.

The great leader [suryong] is precisely our party, and our party is synonymous with Comrade Kim Chong-il. The WPK will shine as Comrade Kim Il-song's party which inherits and consummates the great leader's [suryong] ideology and cause to the end because respected and beloved Comrade Kim Chong-il is leading it.

1. The greatest historic achievements of respected and beloved Comrade Kim Chong-il are that he has strengthened and developed the WPK into the great Comrade Kim Il-song's party [widaehan kimilsong tongjiui tang].

The great leader [yongdoja] Comrade Kim Chong-il has indicated: As I have always talked, the working class' party should become the leader's [suryong] party.

The working class' party is the leader's [suryong] party by nature. The party should become the political organization which upholds and embodies the leader's [suryong] ideology and leadership. The cause of building the leader's party is consummated by the successor who is infinitely loyal to him.

While the leader [suryong] is the pioneer of the cause of building the working class' party, the successor to the leader [suryong] is the leader [yongdoja] of the leader's [suryong] cause of party building.

The parties, which were called together with the names of their leaders in the past, have degenerated and collapsed, failing to adhere to their revolutionary character, because they failed to uphold their genuine successors.

The WPK is the glorious party which was founded by the wise leadership of the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song and which has pioneered the new road to build a revolutionary party in the era of independence.

In view of the history of our party's founding and its strengthening and development and in view of our party's ideal and mission, our party should be strengthened and developed into the great Comrade Kim Il-song's party. This fundamental problem in building our party has been most brilliantly realized by upholding respected and beloved Comrade Kim Chong-il as the head of the party and the revolution.

Respected and beloved Comrade Kim Chong-il is the builder and leader [yongdoja] of the party who has wisely led the historic cause of building our party into Comrade Kim Il-song's party for a long time, upholding the revolutionary banner of the chuche idea. It is Comrade Kim Chong-il who has elucidated the brilliant road of building the leader's [suryong] party. It is precisely Comrade Kim Chong-il who has completely changed the appearance of the party so that the leader's [suryong] ideology and leadership can be realized. It is also Comrade Kim Chong-il who has provided the firm foundation that makes it possible to adhere to the party's revolutionary character generation after generation.

Engraved on the road of victory and glory that our party has traversed as the leader's [suryong] party is the trace of respected and beloved Comrade Kim Chong-il's noble leadership; and our party's invincible might and high authority is also closely linked to the revered name of Comrade Kim chong-il.

The great achievements respected and beloved Comrade Kim Chong-il has registered in the leader's [suryong] cause of party building are that he has made our party the crystal of singlehearted loyalty and filial piety which will uphold the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song as the eternal leader generation after generation.

The important symbol of the leader's [suryong] party lies in the thorough attitude and position to uphold him. The party in which the entire party moves and rallies with loyalty to the leader [suryong] as the first life is precisely the leader's party.

Today, considering the perfect unity with the great leader [suryong] Comrade Kim Il-song as its lifeline, our party is carrying out all activities only based on its loyalty to the leader [suryongnim] under the leadership of respected and beloved Comrade Kim Chong-il [kyongaehanun kimchongil tongji]. The entire party is filled with the lofty features of stoutly struggling, while firmly trusting and following the great leader [suryongnim] as the spiritual pivot and as the sun of life and gaining strength and encouragement from the leader's [suryong] benevolent image.

The WPK is the only party that faithfully upholds its leader [suryong] and resolutely defends the leader's achievements no matter how long time passes away, and no matter how much the world changes. We cannot think of our party without the name of the leader.

The immortal contribution made by respected and beloved Comrade Kim Chong-il in implementing the cause of building the leader's party [suryongui tang] lies in making our party Comrade Kim Il- song's party that has inherited the idea, leadership trait, and virtue of the great leader [suryongnim] as they were. The leader's party is the party that has embodied the leader's innate traits and leads the revolution in accordance with the leader's intent. The leader's look is the party's look, and the leader's traits are the party's majestic appearance.

Today, our party is carrying out the revolution and construction according to the great leader's [suryongnim] style under the leadership of respected and beloved Comrade Kim Chong-il. The leader's idea, will, and traits are plainly embodied in party activities. Our party is overflowing with the only idea—great Comrade Kim Il-song's [widaehan kimilsong tongji] revolutionary idea; our party is throbbing with the spirit—the Paektu revolutionary spirit created by the leader [suryongnim]; the leadership method of our party is the leader's work style. The great leader's idea, leadership, and traits have been indeed crystallized into our party.

The respected and beloved leader [kyongaehanun suryongnim], the founder of our party, was a great human being, a great leader [suryong], and a revolutionary saint who had all perfect traits and qualifications as the leader [yongdoja] of the revolution. There has been no other leader [yongdoja] like the respected and beloved leader [kyongaehanun suryongnim], who died in harness after he strengthened and developed the party as an invincible party in the flames of the arduous struggle that lasted for half a century and prepared all bases for the party's eternal victory.

Our party's appearance bears the lofty appearance of the great leader [suryongnim], and our party's flag bears the sublime life of the leader. The revolutionary character of our party, which resembles the great leader's [suryongnim] appearance, cannot change forever.

Today, after we lost the fatherly leader, we keenly feel how significant Comrade Kim Chong-il's building of our party as the leader's party is in implementing the chuche cause. As respected and beloved Comrade Kim Chong-il built our party as the leader's party, the fatherly leader's eternal life has been firmly guaranteed above all.

The leader's [suryong] eternal life is the eternal life of the center and the supreme head [choego noesu] of the social and political group. The position of a leader [suryong] as the top leader [choegoui yongdoja] who provides ideas, unity, and guiding principles cannot change even after the leader dies. The eternal life of the leader is not something abstract or emotional, but something realistic that can be realized with the existence and activities of the social and political group.

The leader [suryong] lives forever with the party. The leader is the founder and builder of the party. The greatest achievement that the leader registered while he was alive is founding and building the party, and the leader's life-long efforts and pains for the revolution are embodied in the party. The leader [suryong] is the party, and the party is the leader.

If the working-class party exists and is strengthened and developed as the leader's party forever, it means the leader exists forever. This is one of the basic principles in the theory on the leader's eternal life.

Because our party was built into the party of great Comrade Kim Il-song, the leader's [suryongnim] eternal life has become firmly ensured together with the party. Just as he was, the fatherly leader [oboisuryongnim] is our party members' teacher and the defender of their political lives, and the leader's [suryongnim] status as the party's supreme brain is absolute and firm.

The honorable history of struggle which our party is building today is the continuation of the revolutionary activities of Comrade Kim Il-song, the respected and beloved leader [kyongaehanun suryong]. The great leader's [widaehan suryongnim] ideas and achievements cast their rays to our party's endless activities and struggles, and our party, which is advancing, is constantly upholding the leader [suryongnim], the sun of chuche, in its vanguard.

Our party, which is cultivating history according to the great leader's [widaehan suryongnim] ideas and wills, is a party that is eternally living with the fatherly leader [oboi suryongnim]. If a party disappears, its leader [suryong] cannot live eternally, no matter how great he [suryong] may be. This is a serious lesson proven by history.

There are many tragic examples in the history of the international communist movement in which as a result of a party's collapse, its leader's [suryong] historical accomplishments were obliterated and in which his image was damaged. The WPK is the only party in the world in which its leader's [suryong] status is ensured absolutely even after he passed away. The achievements by respected and beloved Comrade Kim Chong-il [kyongaehanun kimchongil tongji] in building this party are immortal accomplishments that will eternally shine in the working class's revolutionary struggle and its cause of party building.

Because respected and beloved Comrade Kim Chong-il [kyongaehanun kimchongil tongji] built our party into the leader's [suryong] party, our party has been able to complete the cause, which the great leader [widaehan suryongnim] cultivated, to the end.

The working-class party is a weapon in the revolution. Defending the leader's [suryong] cause and completing it to the end is the historical mission of the working-class party. Building the party into the party of the leader [suryong] is to fulfill this mission. A party of the leader [suryong] means a party that has power, a combat capability, and a leadership system to implement his ideas and behests after the leader [suryong] passes away. Only such a party can gloriously complete the leader's [suryong] cause in any trial or storm without the slightest deviations.

Because respected and beloved Comrade Kim Chong-il [kyongaehanun kimchongil tongji] is building our party into a party of the leader [suryong], our party is able to display its dignity as a great guiding force that defends and completes to the end the chuche revolutionary cause, which was cultivated in the forests of Mt. Paektu.

Today, our party fully embodies an unshaking revolutionary belief, a strong will, the sagacious art of leadership, and boundless loyalty to the popular masses' cause of independence and their socialist cause, the qualities which the great leader [widaehan suryong] Comrade Kim Il-song possessed.

Our party's resoluteness with which our party adheres to the revolutionary principles in any environment represents the will of the leader [suryongnim], who upheld the red banner throughout his life. And, our party's sagaciousness with which it positively carries out all work according to the environment represents the fatherly leader's [suryongnim] resourcefulness with which he adapted himself to circumstances. Our party's organizational skill and art of leadership with which it unites tens of millions of people into one and pushes ahead with the revolutionary struggle also represent the leader's [suryongnim] tested leadership trait.

Because there is this great party, all work in revolution and construction is being carried out according to the intent of the respected and beloved leader [kyongaehanun suryongnim], and the leader's [suryongnim] behests are being implemented gloriously.

Today, the fact that the socialist system, which the leader built [suryongnim] throughout his life, is being defended firmly despite the vicious maneuvers by the imperialists and traitors of the revolution is unthinkable apart from the might of our party as the party of the leader [suryong].

Because there is the party of great [widaehan] Comrade Kim Il- song, our nation cast its rays as the nation of Kim Il-song, which is brilliant with the dignified name of the leader [suryong], and our country cast its rays as Korea of Kim Il-song.

The issue of inheriting and consummating a leader's [suryong] cause was a task of the times. However, no country could solve the issue in its revolution. Because of this, the revolution which had traversed the single road of victory for a long time had to experience bitter failure and vicissitudes, and the tragic incidents, such as the collapse of socialism in many countries, took place.

By building the party into the leader's [suryong] party, respected and beloved Comrade Kim Chong-il has made it possible to firmly maintain the party's lifeline. Herein lie the immortal achievements that respected and beloved Comrade Kim Chong-il has registered for the times and for the revolution.

2. It is the noble result of respected and beloved Comrade Kim Chong-il's energetic leadership and efforts that our party has been built into the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song's party.

The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song has taught: In leading the revolution and construction, Comrade Kim Chong-il has firmly grasped it as the key to strengthen the party and to enhance the party's leading role.

A great party is strengthened and developed by the correct leadership of a great leader [yongdoja] and by his unremitting efforts.

On the road of leading the cause of building our party, respected and beloved Comrade Kim Chong-il has exerted all possible efforts as a revolutionary and as a leader [yongdoja], and he has been faithful to this road, devoting his all.

The work that Comrade Kim Chong-il has performed during the days of leading the party and the revolution is countless. Today, the WPK has been able to radiate its brilliance thanks to the extraordinary, revolutionary driving force and boundless zeal of respected and beloved Comrade Kim Chong-il who fathoms all problems —ranging from the basic matter on party building to the party life of each party member—and who gives meticulous guidance to party members to effect a momentous innovation in party work.

History has never witnessed such a leader who, like respected and beloved Comrade Kim Chong-il, has devoted his all to the struggle to strengthen and develop the party.

The immortal classical work, "The WPK Is the Great Leader Comrade Kim Il-song's Party," extensively covers the ideology and theory of Comrade Kim Chong-il, who has strengthened and developed our party into Comrade Kim Il-song's party, and his immortal leadership achievements.

The WPK is the party which has been built into the great Comrade Kim Il-song's party in a forward-looking manner, thanks to the outstanding farsightedness of respected and beloved Comrade Kim Chong-il.

The working-class party is the locomotive of the revolution. For the party to guide the times and to lead the revolution, the party itself should be built in a forward-looking manner. Respected and beloved Comrade Kim Chong-il has led the cause of party building with his outstanding farsightedness, looking ahead into the remote future of our revolution.

Respected and beloved Comrade Kim Chong-il's farsightedness can be found in providing the most correct line of party building based on his scientific analysis of the historic lesson in building the working-class party and of the situation of the international communist movement.

Before the sixties when the revisionist party building theory emerged in the international communist movement, respected and beloved Comrade Kim Chong-il presented the matter on establishing the party's unitary ideological system and provided the basic guideline for the leader's [suryong] party building. In the seventies, he clearly elucidated the way of consummating the leader's [suryong] party building cause under the slogan of modeling the entire party on the chuche idea. It was also Comrade Kim Chong- il who elucidated the way of rebuilding the party even under the complicated situation in the nineties in which socialist ruling parties have collapsed in many countries.

When the party carries out its ideological construction, Comrade Kim Chong-il sees to it that the leader's [suryong] revolutionary ideology radiates its brilliance even in the future of communism. When the party carries out its organizational construction, Comrade Kim Chong-il sees to it that the party is built into a party with the strong organizational ability that can firmly grasp and correctly lead the overall revolution and construction. When the party builds its leadership art, Comrade Kim Chong-il sees to it that the leader's [suryong] work style prevails within the party generation after generation. Herein lies the wisdom of Comrade Kim Chong-il's leadership.

The far-seeing wisdom of respected and beloved Comrade Kim Chong-il [kyongae hanun kimjongil tongji] in ideology and theory has always been the lighthouse that elucidated the future of our party. Comrade Kim Chong-il's ideology and line on party building has been the ever-victorious banner of our party. Thanks to Comrade Kim Chong-il's farsightedness, our party has been able to most successfully pioneer the untrodden road of implementing the leader's [suryong] cause to build the party, and has been unflinching by the wave of contemporary revisionism and socialist democracy.

The leader's [yongdoja] farsightedness decides the future of the party. Witnessing the tragedy in which socialism was hindered and ruling parties went bankrupt in many countries, we feel keenly the farsightedness of respected and beloved Comrade Kim Chong-il [kyongaehanun kimjongil tongji], who has built the party in a forward-looking manner since the early days. As long as Comrade Kim Chong-il leads our party, the future of our party will be optimistic. Our party has been, and will be strengthened and developed as the leader's [suryong] party that moves according to the ideology and will of the great leader [widaehan suryong] Comrade Kim Il-song.

Thanks to the iron will of respected and beloved Comrade Kim Chong-il [kyongaehanun kimjongil tongji], the WPK has always been such a revolutionary party that it has maintained dignity as great Comrade Kim Il-song's party. The working-class party grows and develops in struggles. The leader's [yongdoja] faith and will that overcomes trials and difficulties will maintain the party's lifeline and strengthen the party's combat capabilities in all aspects.

Our party was founded, strengthened, and developed by the great leader [widaehan suryong]. Since the first day of its founding, our party should have uplifted the banner of building the leader's [suryong] party. However, due to the arduous history of our party, the issue of building the party of the leader [suryong] has not been come to light. Respected and beloved Comrade Kim Chong-il [kyongaehanun kimjongil tongji] had the firm will that no matter what may happen, our party should be a chuche-type party that is called only by the esteemed name of the leader [suryong], and, for the first time in the history of building the working-class party, raised the issue of building the leader's [suryong] party and led the party building.

The cause of building our party as the leader's [suryong] party accompanied arduous struggles. On the road of building the party, there had been a fierce struggle against the imperialists and reactionaries, and a serious struggle against factionalists, flunkeyists, and anti-party revisionists inside the party. Respected and beloved Comrade Kim Chong-il [kyongaehanun kimjongil tongji] was the one who shouldered the heavy burden of all these struggles that decided the party's destiny. The iron will of respected and beloved Comrade Kim Chong-il [kyongaehanun kimjongil tongji] is the consistency in firmly adhering to the chuche-based line for party building under any circumstances; the principle that does not overlook but uncompromisingly struggles against the most trivial element that conflicts with the leader's [suryong] ideology; and the resolve that carries out any task without the slightest hesitation or flinching no matter how heavy the task is.

Because respected and beloved Comrade Kim Chong-il [kyongaehanun kimjongil tongji] has led the party and the revolution with his iron will, the cause of building our party has been successfully accomplished amid the arduous vortex of history, and an ever-victorious history of our revolution has been created. Thanks to the boundless love for the people and lofty traits of respected and beloved Comrade Kim Chong-il [kyongaehanun kimjongil tongji], the WPK has become the mother party that receives absolute trust from the people. The party of great Comrade Kim Il-song is the mother party that embodies the leader's [suryong] leadership and realizes the leader's [suryong] benevolent politics.

Actual experience in building our party shows that in order for the party to become a mother party, the party needs a great leader [widaehan yongdoja] who wins the active support from the popular masses and leads the revolution with the people's trust. Respected and beloved Comrade Kim Chong-il [kyongaehanun kimjongil tongji] is the people's father, who has embodied the great leader's [widaehan suryong] ideology of regarding the people as heavens. Comrade Kim Chong-il's unique way of doing politics is to build the party with the ideology of regarding the people as heavens, and to implement benevolent politics as the party's politics.

The leader's [suryong] people-oriented traits exactly concur with the successor's people-oriented traits. The concurrence is embodied in the party building. This is characteristic of the WPK.

Respected and beloved Comrade Kim Chong-il's [kyongaehanun kimjongil tongji] ideology of regarding the people as heavens is an absolute ideology that worships the people as heavens, the essence of human love that does not hesitate to spend a thousand pieces of gold for the people, and the self- sacrificing service that devotes everything to blossoming the people's happiness.

Comrade Kim Chong-il's lofty ideology of regarding the people as heavens is embodied in all lines and policies of our party that reflect the opinion and demands of the popular masses, incorporated into the party slogan "Serve the people," and is vibrating in the revolutionary work methods and work style of our party. Because the leader's [yongdoja] ideology and virtue is lofty, our party has formed one harmonious whole with the people. The party trusts and loves the people; the people absolutely trust and loyally hold the party. This is the proud aspect of the mother party, the great Comrade Kim Il-song's party.

With the respected and beloved Comrade Kim Chong-il [kyongaehanun kimjongil tongji] leading the party, our party will be the proud great Comrade Kim Il-song's party that takes the basic ideology of regarding the people as heavens as the starting point and as the supreme principle. The glorious history, in which our party has been built as the party of the great leader [widaehan suryong] Comrade Kim Il-song, is a brilliant chronicle embroidered with the wise leadership and sleepless and restless efforts of respected and beloved Comrade Kim Chong-il [kyongaehanun kimjongil tongji].

During the long course, our party has been excellently built in conformity with the aspiration and demand of the times, and the party's might has been strengthened hundred-fold and thousand-fold. The history that unfolds the golden age of building the WPK is the lasting wealth of our party and the common asset of the revolutionary parties of our times. The future of great Comrade Kim Il-song's party lies on the road of endlessly cherishing and glorifying the history.

3. The experience in the history of building the WPK, in which the leader's [suryong] cause to build the party was brilliantly accomplished under the wise leadership of respected and beloved Comrade Kim Chong-il [kyongaehanun kimjongil tongji], teaches us a boundlessly valuable truth in implementing the revolutionary cause and in building the party of our times.

The great leader [widaehan suryong] Comrade Kim Il-song taught: The experience our party gained during the party building will be a valuable asset for further strengthening and developing our party.

The leader's [suryong] cause to build the party is an untrodden road known to no one. The cause was a historic cause that accompanies a serious struggle. During the course of implementing the difficult and complicated task of the times in a most perfect way, our party gained extraordinarily rich and valuable experience and confirmed the profound truth of the revolution. The experience and achievements in party building accumulated by the leader [suryong], the successor, and the party as a perfect harmonious whole, is a valuable guideline for our party and the revolution to be forever victorious, and a textbook for the revolution of our times.

The historical experience in building our party shows that when we have an experienced and tested leader [yongdoja], who has a long history, the party will be strengthened and developed forever as the leader's [suryong] party. A leader [yongdoja] who leads the cause to build the party must have a history. The leader [yongdoja] must have a history in order to become authoritative among the entire party and all people, and to build the party and carry out the revolution without deviation. A leader's [yongdoja] experience and wisdom displayed in leading the leader's [suryong] cause to build the party spring from his history. The trust of the people, who uphold the leader [yongdoja], is also built through a long history.

A great party has a leader [yongdoja] who has a great history. Respected and beloved Comrade Kim Chong-il [kyongaehanun kimjongil tongji] is an experienced and tested leader [yongdoja], who has registered rich experience and immortal achievements in party building during the long course of revolutionary activities. The party building history of respected and beloved Comrade Kim Chong-il [kyongaehanun kimjongil tongji] extends more than 30 years. Being a leader [yongdoja] for neither 10 years nor 20 years, but for 30 years is a very long history.

The history of party building headed by respected and beloved Comrade Kim Chong-il [kyongaehanun kimjongil tongji] over 30-odd years was a brilliant chronicle in which all the theoretical and practical problems arising in implementing the cause of building the leader's [suryong] party were fully expounded with the rare wisdom of Comrade Kim Chong-il. It was also a glorious history in which, thanks to his tested leadership, an example for the cause of building the leader's [suryong] party was set. It was the 30-odd years of the great succession that can only be carried on by a great leader [yongdoja] who is endlessly loyal to the leader [suryong].

During this period, a valuable guideline for building the socialist ruling party was mapped out and a solid foundation on which the party can shed its light as the leader's [suryongui] party even in the future days of communist society was also laid.

By creating the 30-odd years of glorious history, respected and beloved Comrade Kim Chong-il [kyongaehanun kimjongil tongji] has come to win absolute trust and support from the entire party and all the people as a great master of party building in our times and a supreme leader [choego yondoja] of our party.

Possessing the long history of 30 years, rich experiences, and extraordinary talents, Comrade Kim Chong-il has enjoyed the absolute prestige none can impair and led our party and revolution in the forefront. Comrade Kim Chong-il is indeed a symbol of the greatness of our party as well as an eternal banner of victory. Because there is Comrade Kim Chong-il, our party has nothing to be afraid of even if it is in adversity. In addition, our party can easily carry out difficult undertakings and complete the socialist cause.

The historic experiences attained during the building of our party show us that the leader's [suryong] party in the true sense of the word becomes a party that resembles an inheritor. The inheritor who is loyal to the leader [suryong] takes after the leader [suryong]. An inheritor whose ideas, leadership features, and character are identical to those of the leader [suryong] is a genuine inheritor of the leader [suryong]. Therefore, a party that resembles the leader [suryong] signifies a party that resembles the inheritor.

When the party upholds a great leader [yongdoja] who takes after the leader [suryong], it can be strengthened as the party of the leader [suryong] that advances the revolution in conformity with the intention of the leader [suryong] and can adhere to the achievements and tradition accomplished by the leader [suryong] by invariably having the leader's ideas as guidelines.

The respected and beloved Comrade Kim Chong-il [kyongaehanun kimjongil tongji] is today's Comrade Kim Il-song whose ideas, leadership features, and virtues are identical to those of the great leader [suryong]. In the appearance of our party that shines with the leader's [suryongui] esteemed name, the appearance of the respected and beloved Comrade Kim Chong-il [kyongaehanun kimjongil tongji] resides.

Today, only respected and beloved Comrade Kim Chong-il's [kyongaehanun kimjongil tongji] ideas and intention prevail among our party, and all works and activities of the party are being pushed ahead according to Comrade Kim Chong-il's will.

The spirit of our party which holds aloft the red banner of the revolution is the indomitable spirit of the respected and beloved Comrade Kim Chong-il [kyongaehanun kimjongil tongji]. The uncommon will and faith of our party that tide over difficulties and trials are the iron will and unrivaled boldness of Comrade Kim Chong-il. The refined art of leadership of our party which leads the revolution and construction in a superb and experienced way is identical to the revolutionary leadership methods of Comrade Kim Chong-il.

Today's the WPK is indeed a party that resembles respected and beloved Comrade Kim Chong-il [kyongaehanun kimjongil tongji]. The course in which our party has been strengthened and developed as the party of the great Comrade Kim Il-song has been a course that has been strengthened and developed in conformity with the ideas and will of respected and beloved Comrade Kim Chong-il [kyongaehanun kimjongil tongji].

When the appearance of the leader [suryong] is reflected in the appearance of an inheritor and the appearance of the inheritor is embodied in all works of the party, the cause of building the leader's [suryongui] party can be realized brilliantly. This is a priceless truth that has been proved in the building of our party.

The historic experiences gained during the period of building our party also show that the eternal life of the leader [suryong], the founder of the party, is being guaranteed entirely by the loyal inheritor. The leader [suryong] lives eternally in the harmonious unity with the people who uphold him. The height of the leader's [suryongui] eternal life can be measured by the loyalty of the coming generation.

When the people regard the leader [suryong] as a pillar of their hearts, follow the leader's [suryongui] ideas and behests, and elucidate the leader's [suryongui] achievements, the leader [suryong] can live eternally in the position he held while he was alive.

The eternal harmonious unity between the leader [suryong] and the people is being consolidated by the leader [yongdoja]. The leader [yongdoja] is a supreme representative of the popular masses who uphold the leader [suryong] generation after generation. The loyalty and filial piety of the leader [yongdoja] toward the leader [suryong] are an example to the people and enables them to uphold the leader [suryong] at the highest level, and are the lifesaving water that brings up the people as an outstanding people with a noble moral obligation. Without the loyal leader [chidoja], there cannot be loyal people. Without the loyal people, the leader's [suryongui] eternal life cannot be guaranteed. In conclusion, the leader [suryong] lives eternally in the world of the inheritor's noble moral obligation.

With the noble moral obligation to uphold the great leader [widaehan suryongnim] forever, the respected and beloved Comrade Kim Chong-il [kyongaehanun kimjongil tongji] is leading the party work, party activities, and other works of the revolution and construction.

By building the Kumsusan Memorial Palace as the highest sacred area of chuche, the respected and beloved Comrade Kim Chong-il [kyongaehanun kimjongil tongji] preserved the great leader [widaehan suryongnim] in state. By publishing the classic works, including "Respecting the Forerunners of the Revolution is a Lofty Moral Obligation of Revolutionaries," the respected and beloved Comrade Kim Chong-il [kyongaehanun kimjongil tongji] has led the people into the world of noble moral ethics. All these show how deep Comrade Kim Chong-il's loyalty and filial piety are.

The wise leadership and noble moral features of the respected and beloved Comrade Kim Chong-il [kyongaehanun kimjongil tongji] have turned our people into an outstanding people who only know and uphold the leader [suryong] and changed our society into one sociopolitical organism which is struggling and firmly rallying around the leader [suryong].

Our party members and people are indeed the soldiers and disciples of the leader [suryong] who uphold and follow the great leader [widaehan suryongnim] forever. In the endless struggle and activities of our people who uphold the leader [suryong], the fatherly leader lives and will live eternally.

In the long and arduous struggle of building our party as the leader's [suryongui] party, our people have come to realize the precious truths. What our people have come to cherish exceptionally is a natural principle that the fatherly leader lives eternally because there is the respected and beloved Comrade Kim Chong-il [kyongaehanun kimjongil tongji].

The leader's [suryongui] ideas are immortal in the leader's [yongdojaui] thinkings and the leader's [suryongui] entire life shines in the leader's [yongdojaui] endless struggle and activities. The leader [suryong] lives forever in the look of the leader [yongdoja] who resembles him. The feats of the leader [suryong] will be consummated as the feats of the inheritor. These are firm faiths our people come to cherish.

Keeping this faiths in their hearts, our people will forever uphold the respected and beloved Comrade Kim Chong-il [kyongaehanun kimjongil tongji] at the supreme position of the party with the same burning loyalty with which they upheld the fatherly leader.

The cause of building the leader's [suryongui] party which began with the Down-With-Imperialism Union [DIU] enters a new stage. Building, consolidating, and strengthening our party in the way the DIU was pioneered is an unshakable will of the respected and beloved Comrade Kim Chong-il [kyongaehanun kimjongil tongji]. Because the respected and beloved Comrade Kim Chong-il [kyongaehanun kimjongil tongji] who invariably upholds the banner of the DIU and the red banner of the revolution stands in the forefront, the WPK is invincible and the ultimate victory of the chuche revolutionary cause is firmly guaranteed.

The WPK will forever shed its light as the glorious chuche-type revolutionary party and as Comrade Kim Il-song's party that has faithfully inherited and develops the ideas and feats of the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song.

DPRK Article Lauds Kim Chong-il's Leadership, Achievements

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[NODONG SINMUN 1 February article: "An Experienced and Tested Leader Who Achieved Great Historic Assets"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Great history gives all the more resplendent ray with the passage of time and with the advance of the revolution. The 30-odd years of revolutionary activities of the respected and beloved Comrade Kim Chong-il [kyongaehanun kimjongil tongji] are the glorious annals embroidered with great victories and immortal achievements.

During this period, our party has been further strengthened and developed as the great Comrade Kim Il-song's party, a great heyday has been unfolded in all fields of the revolutions and construction, and a firm base has been provided for us to fulfill the chuche revolutionary cause.

This great history is the national treasure of our country, the noble assets of the Korean revolution, and the textbook for the struggle and life of the people who are engaged in the revolution.

Because he has made immortal achievements which will shine through the century and achieved extraordinarily abundant experience in the course of leading the protracted and arduous revolutionary struggle, the respected and beloved Comrade Kim Chong-il [kyongaehanun kimjongil tongji] has absolute authority [choltaejogin kwoni] unequalled by anyone and is receiving boundless respect and trust from all the people.

On the trial-filled road of struggle and on the glorious victorious road which the Korean revolution has traversed for the last 30-odd years, the sacred trace of the respected and beloved Comrade Kim Chong-il [kyongaehanun kimjongil tongji] is engraved; and in the great achievements made by our party, the name of Comrade Kim Chong-il [kimjongil tongji] shines.

It is our people's great fortune and greatest happiness that they uphold the inheritor and who are endlessly loyal to the leader's cause, the experienced and tested leader of the revolution, and the outstanding political leader at the head of the party and the revolution.

Because the respected and beloved Comrade Kim Chong-il [kyongaehanun kimjongil tongji] has created the glorious and resplendent history, he is the great leader [widaehan yongdoja] of our party and our people who has absolute authority.

For a leader to lead the revolution, he must have authority. The higher the authority of the leader, the better the people follow the leader, the better they advance the revolution and construction according to the ideology and intent of the leader, and the more vigorously they struggle overcoming any stern storm firmly united around the leader.

The leader's leadership authority does not come about automatically from scratch. It is connected with the achievements he made to history, the times, and the revolution he trod through. Only the leader [yongdoja], who has a great history, can inherit the leader's [suryongui] leadership position intact and complete the revolutionary cause brilliantly.

In some countries in the past, they elected their leaders when the issue of inheriting the revolutionary cause came to the fore, but they failed to stick to the leadership position and ruined the party and the revolution after all. The historical experience shows that any administrative businesslike measures [haenjong silmujok chochi] cannot properly solve the problem of inheriting the leadership.

The problem of succession to the leader [suryongui hugye munje] can only be solved most brilliantly when the people uphold the leader who has extraordinarily abundant experience and made immortal achievements over a long history—this is the noble truth confirmed by the practice of the revolution of our times.

In our country today, the respected and beloved Comrade Kim Chong-il [kyongaehanun kimjongil tongji] wisely leads our party and the revolution at their head. The authority which the great leader Comrade Kim Chong-il has is the absolute authority which nothing can pull down, and the supreme authority which excites the admiration of all people.

Comrade Kim Chong-il [kimjongil tongji] thus has the boundless respect and trust of the entire party membership and all the people as the publicly acknowledged leader of the revolution because he has the glorious and resplendent history of the revolutionary struggle which could not be created by any socialist political leader of our times.

The absolute authority of the respected and beloved Comrade Kim Chong-il [kyongaehanun kimchongil tongji] is an authority that has been consolidated in history. The history of the respected and beloved Comrade Kim Chong-il is over 30 years long. If one's history as a leader [yongdoja] is over 30 years, and not merely 10 or 20 years, it is a quite long history.

Comrade Kim Chong-il, who had risen as the bright star of Paektu, was highly elected [chudae] at the top [suwi] of the party and the revolution at an early age in conformity with the unanimous desire of the entire party and all the people, and has led the Korean revolution at its head. During this course, respected and beloved Comrade Kim Chong-il registered immortal achievements that will shine forever before the times and the revolution, and accumulated and extraordinarily rich experience.

The great leader [suryong] Comrade Kim Il-song taught: Our revolution has entered a new stage of upsurge under the leadership of Comrade Kim Chong-il. Since the leadership of Comrade Kim Chong- il began, new changes have been made, not only in party activities but also in various activities in political, economic, and cultural sectors, and great innovations and upsurges have been effected on all fronts of socialist construction.

The past 30 years of the respected and beloved Comrade Kim Chong- il's leadership of the revolution and construction are the days of great succession that only the leader [yongdoja], who is boundlessly loyal to the leader's [suryong] cause, can pass; the days of wise leadership when the most glorious age opened in the annals of the Korean revolution; and the days of great creation and change when eternal bases for consummating the chuche revolutionary cause were consolidated.

The history of the respected and beloved Comrade Kim Chong-il's leadership is indeed the longest and glorious history unmatched with that of any other great man or political leader of our age. Above all, the more-than-30-year history of the respected and beloved Comrade Kim Chong-il's revolutionary activities is the history of the great leadership in which he led the Korean revolution at the head along with the fatherly leader [suryongnim].

The history of the working-class revolution is, by nature, the history of the leader [suryong] and the history of the leader [yongdoja]. A great history can be created by the leader [yongdoja] who has succeeded to the leader's leadership position [suryongui yongdojok chiwi]. This is the inevitable course of the working- class revolutionary struggle.

The history of our country's revolutionary struggle has the most glorious annals in which the leader [suryong] and his successor led the revolution and construction together in perfect unity for a long time, over 30 years. It is a significant event unprecedented in the history of the working-class revolutionary struggle that the leader [suryong], who pioneered the revolutionary road for the first time, and the leader [yongdoja], who has the same leadership as the former, led the revolution together. This is a pride that can only be created in our country by the leader's [suryong] brilliant insight and the leader's [yongdoja] extraordinary greatness.

The past some 30 years, when the people carried out the revolution while upholding both the great leader [suryong] Comrade Kim Il-song and the respected and beloved Comrade Kim Chong-il [kyongaehanun kimchongil tongji] as the center of leadership and unity, were indeed the most meaningful and ideal period when everything went well.

The respected and beloved Comrade Kim Chong-il, along with the great leader [suryongnim], has led the revolution with high authority as the supreme head [choego noesu] of the Korean revolution. The great leader [suryongnim] and the respected and beloved Comrade Kim Chong-il together discussed all problems in the revolution and construction and established lines and policies in cooperation with each other. All lines and policies of our party bear the great effort and pain of the two leaders [tubunui suryong].

The wisdom of the respected and beloved Comrade Kim Chong-il shines in the great leader's [suryongnim] ideas and theories, and the wisdom of the leader [suryongnim] is implied in Comrade Kim Chong-il's ideas and theories. The great leader's [suryongnim] ideas and theories have been embodied by the respected and beloved Comrade Kim Chong-il, and Comrade Kim Chong-il's ideas and intents were advanced by the leader [suryongnim]. The immortal chuche idea, which shines as the great guiding idea of our age, is a valuable result of the joint ideological and theoretical activities by the fatherly leader [suryongnim] and the respected and beloved Comrade Kim Chong-il, and is their common asset.

The respected and beloved Comrade Kim Chong-il was always with the fatherly leader during the entire course of his leadership for the revolution and construction. The respected and beloved Comrade Kim Chong-il was a great comrade who shared happiness and sufferings with the fatherly leader, and a faithful supporter who the most- closely assisted the leader.

The respected and beloved Comrade Kim Chong-il [kyongaehanun kimchongil tongji] always traversed the road the fatherly leader [suryong] had traversed, and where the leader [suryong] was, there was Comrade Kim Chong-il. Together with the fatherly leader [suryong], the respected and beloved Comrade Kim Chong-il has traversed several hundred million miles, giving on-the-spot guidance and leading the overall work of the party, the state, and the Army.

Even when the great leader [suryong] was embarking on visits to foreign countries, Comrade Kim Chong-il was always in his mind. Comrade Kim Chong-il's mind has never been away from the thoughts of the leader [suryong].

The benevolent image of the two leaders [tubunui suryong], who travelled the same road together for the people, is forever cherished in the hearts of our people as the symbol of unity, as the symbol of continuity, and as the symbol of victory.

For our people, the leadership of the great Comrade Kim Chong- il's [widaehan kimchongil tongji] was precisely the fatherly leader's [suryong] leadership, and the leader's [suryong] leadership was precisely Comrade Kim Chong-il's leadership. Because of this, the history of the respected and beloved Comrade Kim Chong-il's [kyongaehanun kimchongil tongji] revolutionary activity, and the history of the great leader's [suryong] glorious and brilliant history over the past 30-odd years, are in complete accord with each other in the history of our revolutionary struggle.

Engraved in the history of the fatherly leader [suryong] are the traces of the respected and beloved Comrade Kim Chong-il's leadership; also engraved in the history of Comrade Kim Chong-il's revolutionary activity is the history of the leader [suryong]. This is why our people call the respected and beloved Comrade Kim Chong- il the fatherly leader [oboi suryong].

Although the fatherly leader [suryong] has left us, because there is Comrade Kim Chong-il, who is identical to the leader [suryong], the history of the Korean revolution will shine forever as the history of the great leader [suryong].

The history of the great leader Comrade Kim Chong-il's 30-odd years is a dignified history in which he has brilliantly pioneered the road ahead for the times and for the revolution, using his outstanding capability.

A leader of the revolution must fight his way through the rough road of history. To lead the revolution to victory with multilayered trials and barriers, the leader should have ability. The leader's authority is the authority displayed by his ability, and the greatness of his history lies in the greatness of the achievements created by his ability.

The internal and external circumstances of our revolution in the past were indescribably difficult and complicated. Our revolution faced the constant war provocation maneuvers of the imperialists, their maneuvers of destruction and sabotage, the rapidly changing international situation, and the intensified antisocialist and anti-Republic maneuvers of the imperialists and reactionaries. Victoriously leading the revolution and construction under such grim circumstances was indeed difficult. However, this road was the road of victory and glory which could be taken only by the respected and beloved Comrade Kim Chong-il, who is a prominently-talented leader [yongdoja].

The period during which the respected and beloved Comrade Kim Chong-il led our revolution over the past 30-odd years were the significant, historic days during which he unreservedly demonstrated his prominent ability and features as a leader [yongdoja].

It is the iron will of the respected and beloved Comrade Kim Chong-il to march forward, step by step, and to finally occupy the high peak of the revolution.

The great Comrade Kim Chong-il has elucidated the road ahead for the times and for the revolution with high political insight and wisdom, and has rallied the popular masses with his outstanding leading ability, thus organizing and mobilizing them to the revolutionary struggle.

The achievements and successes registered by the respected and beloved Comrade Kim Chong-il are the precious creation that he himself personally planned, organized, and finally attained. The cause of regularizing the great leader's [suryong] revolutionary ideology, and of deepening and developing it with new principles and contents, could be precisely realized by the outstanding ideological and theoretical wisdom of the respected and beloved Comrade Kim Chong-il. At the same time, the vast struggle of modeling the entire society after the chuche idea has been victoriously accelerated thanks to Comrade Kim Chong-il's energetic leadership.

Comrade Kim Chong-il has accelerated the revolution and construction through creation and innovation in conformity with the demands of developing realities, and has actively coped with the rapidly changing situation. On this course, he has created a model in his experienced and tested revolutionary leadership of firmly adhering to the fundamental interest and principle of the revolution.

Although there have been innumerable trials and barriers on the road of the revolution, our party and people have been able to emerge victorious because the respected and beloved Comrade Kim Chong-il leads the revolution.

The respected and beloved Comrade Kim Chong-il, who has led our revolution under the most arduous conditions, and who has nevertheless achieved a great victory, is a leader with outstanding ability and a great man of great men who has absolute authority.

Originally, a leader [yongdoja] of the revolution does not occupy the leadership position by being recommended by someone. A leader's [yongdoja] leadership authority is wholly supported and consolidated by his capability. The sun's rays are warm and brilliant. This is why all creation follows the sun. Likewise, if the disposition and trait of a leader [yongdoja] of the revolution is outstanding, the people themselves put him at the forefront and uphold him as the head of the party and the revolution.

The fundamental truth of forming and consolidating the center of leadership and the center of unity has been shown as reality. Herein lies the respected and beloved Comrade Kim Chong-il's [kyongaehanun kimjongil tongji] historic greatness and immortal significance. The 30-odd years of the history of the respected and beloved Comrade Kim Chong-il is also a history which had faith in the people and advanced by wholeheartedly being united with the people. A leader [yongdoja] who receives people's absolute faith has the history of having served the people and struggled by being one with the people.

Political leaders of various countries who built socialism in the past suddenly lost people's support and their leadership position. This is because they did not have people's leadership history. The absolute faith and love in the people and devoted serving spirit lie in every page of the 30-odd years of history of the respected and beloved Comrade Kim Chong-il.

To the great Comrade Kim Chong-il [widaehan kimjongil tongji], the people are teachers and the source of infinite wisdom and strength. If we have faith in the people and are based on the people, we obtain the whole world and are ever-victorious, but if we are distant from the people and are abandoned by them, we will be defeated every time. This is the favorite maxim which the respected and beloved Comrade Kim Chong-il has been consistently adhering to.

Whenever there were difficult and enormous tasks before our revolution, the respected and beloved Comrade Kim Chong-il always went into the people and shared the sweets and bitters with the people. During the period when the flames of the great revolutionary upsurge were vigorously blazing, the respected and beloved Comrade Kim Chong-il led the revolution at the battle site in which the working class and people were living and working, and when the imperialists' aggressive maneuvers reached the climax, he was in the same dugout with the People's Army fighters.

In the simple letter by the people to him, he acquired faith and courage and keenly felt the people's greatness from the people's eyes enthusiastically cheering him, thus, he was all the more firmly determined to serve the people and led the revolution and construction by motivating the people's strength. He is our Comrade Kim Chong-il.

The path the respected and beloved Comrade Kim Chong-il walked is elucidated with such immortal traces. This lies in the fact that he has been wholeheartedly united with the people and overcame all kinds of historical hardships. A leader's [yongdoja] faith in the people brings about absolute admiration toward the leader [yongdoja] among the people.

Extending over a long period of time, our revolutionary fighters and people were captivated by the respected and beloved Comrade Kim Chong-il's great leadership trait and character, and have highly upheld him by calling him the dear comrade leader [chinaehanun chidoja tongji] and the respected and beloved general [kyongaehanun changgunnim] with faith and integrity springing up from their hearts. It is the firm faith of our people that the final victory of the revolution and the infinite prosperity of the Kim Il-song nation precisely lie in the road of following only Comrade Kim Chong-il while entrusting their fate and future to him.

This unyielding faith is included in the slogan of guns and bombs which our People's Army has highly upheld; in the torch of the revolution which our youths has highly upheld; and can be felt in the song of the red flag of the nineties, "Let's highly uphold the red flag," which our people are singing.

Our people's absolute faith of wholly entrusting all of our fate to the respected and beloved Comrade Kim Chong-il and to fight resolutely, is being all the more firmly consolidated with each passing day. Reality shows that our people's admiration toward the leader [yongdoja] is not based on some kind of power and simple mind to follow someone.

Currently, people carrying out the revolution are highly praising the respected and beloved Comrade Kim Chong-il who created the long history of revolutionary struggle, as a mature and refined socialist political leader who possesses the most absolute authority in today's world.

The respected and beloved Comrade Kim Chong-il's authority is is the same authority as that of the great leader [suryong] who was an elder of the world's politics; is an uncollapseable authority which is being supported by outstanding capability; and an extraordinarily high authority which all the people are sincerely upholding. There is no leader [yongdoja] like the respected and beloved Comrade Kim Chong-il who is leading the revolution absolute authority through the force of traction, the power of influence, and driving force which cannot be compared with anything.

The Thirty-Year History Created by the Respected and Beloved Comrade Kim Chong-il Is the Boundlessly Noble and Revolutionary Asset of Our Party and People

The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song taught: All achievements gained by our party in the revolution and construction can be regarded as the common achievements of the international working class. The experience and truth of the revolution that we gained can positively contribute to enriching the revolutionary theory of the working class.

Preserved along the road that the leader [yongdoja] has embarked upon are all the revolutionary struggles faced by one state, one nation. In addition, the people's aspirations and the demands of the times and the revolution have been preserved along that road.

The history of the leader [yongdoja] is the history of the struggle of the working class party, the history of the people, and the immortal revolutionary history. Based on this, the history of the revolutionary struggle created by the leader [yongdoja] has become the most important asset of the revolution, the textbook of the struggle, and the life of the people carrying out the revolution.

In the course of embarking upon the protracted and ardent road of the revolution while upholding the great leader [suryong] and the great leader [yongdoja], our people have come to possess a considerable amount of revolutionary assets. All these assets, which have been gained and accumulated during the protracted struggle of the revolution since the opening of the Korean revolution, are important for the future of the revolution.

The history created by the respected and beloved Comrade Kim Chong-il while leading the revolution and construction over the past 30 years has become our most valuable asset. The history of the respected and beloved Comrade Kim Chong-il is an asset of chuche Korea that will shine in communism's future, a common asset of mankind that has immortal significance on a world-wide scale. We now proudly say that mankind's history is the eternal national asset of the Kim Il-song nation.

The reason the history of the revolutionary activity of the respected and beloved Comrade Kim Chong-il has become a noble asset of the revolution is, above all, because all guidelines and experience we should strongly adhere to in order to carry out the revolution and construction in our times are included within that history.

The history of a leader [yongdoja] is not glorious simply because it is long. Nor is it great simply because it has fought its way through an arduous struggle. The greatness of the history of the leader's revolutionary struggle lies in the greatness and enrichment of the experience and achievement gained during the practical struggle.

Over the past 30 years, a countless number of hard and vast tasks have been raised before our revolution. Our party and people have consolidated the socialist cause at a new higher level while embarking upon a new road of history. In addition, as a banner of the revolution, they have accelerated the overall anti-imperialist independent cause by defeating the imperialists' challenge.

While more brilliantly solving the pressing tasks presented by history as vanguard of the times, the respected and beloved Comrade Kim Chong-il has left an immortal trace that cannot be removed from history. Because of this, his history is great and glorious.

There are many sharp political problems of the times that have been brilliantly solved by the respected and beloved Comrade Kim Chong-il over the past 30 years. However, there are still many unsolved problems. The great Comrade Kim Chong-il has perfectly solved the basic problems in inheriting the cause of the leader [suryong]; has prepared guidelines for endlessly consummating the socialist, communist cause; and has clearly elucidated the road to rebuild socialism on a world-wide scale. In this course, the noble experiences of great significance have been created in building the revolution and construction in our times. This includes the experience in which we have strongly built the party's organizational and ideological basis, as well as the leadership system that can endlessly consummate the leader's [suryong] cause; in which we have achieved harmonious unity between the party, the Army, and the masses of youth; in which we have accelerated the revolution and construction in compliance with the communist and transitional character of socialist society; and in which we have advanced the socialist cause with the might of ideological work, adhering to ideology.

In the immortal and classical works published by the respected and beloved Comrade Kim Chong-il in recent years—such as "Socialism Is a Science," "Giving Priority to Ideological Work Is an Indispensable Demand in Implementing the Socialist Cause," and "The Workers Party of Korea Is the Party of the Great Leader Comrade Kim Il-song"—the achievements and experience gained by Comrade Kim Chong-il over the past 30 years have been summed up. Because of this, the leadership history [yongdosa] of the respected and beloved Comrade Kim Chong-il has become a textbook of the revolutionary party's and the people's struggle to accelerate toward socialism, all the while safeguarding and adhering to the leader's [suryong] cause and smashing the imperialists' maneuvers.

All of the achievements created by the respected and beloved Comrade Kim Chong-il [kyongaehanun kimjongil tongji] have international significance and universality for the revolutionary struggle and socialist construction. Today, the people of our times find answers to the most difficult and acute questions arising in international politics within the leadership history of Comrade Kim Chong-il, and see the future of the revolution in the valuable struggle experience of Comrade Kim Chong- il. Comrade Kim Chong-il is thus highly respected by the world's revolutionary people as an outstanding leader [yongdoja].

The experience and achievements accumulated by the respected and beloved Comrade Kim Chong-il [kyongaehanun kimjongil tongji] are extraordinarily rich and extensive. Since the early days, the great leader [widaehan yongdoja] Comrade Kim Chong-il has had a full command of all aspects and sectors of the revolution and construction. He has sway over the world and has unfolded on this land the flowering era of the Workers Party of Korea.

His over-30-year history of leadership is literally a history of the creation of heaven and earth embroidered with great creations and reform. During these days, Comrade Kim Chong-il carried out bold operations, renewed everything, and ambitiously advanced the revolution and construction.

Indeed, the volume and diversity of the work Comrade Kim Chong-il took charge of and carried out is beyond human imagination. The respected and beloved Comrade Kim Chong-il [kyongaehanun kimjongil tongji] guided party building, commanded the revolutionary armed forces, led the socialist economic construction, and brilliantly led the cultural construction.

During this, the history of the revolutionary activities of the respected and beloved Comrade Kim Chong-il [kyongaehanun kimjongil tongji] has been filled with encyclopedic rich content, each of which has become the most valuable asset for the cultivation of the people's destiny. The respected and beloved Comrade Kim Chong-il [kyongaehanun kimjongil tongji] has taken care of thousands of tasks for the party, the revolution, the fatherland, and the people. He has never rested during the entire course of his leadership of the revolutionary struggle. He spends his days with little sleep and few rice-balls. One day of his equals one hundred or one thousand days of others. He left the traces of his leadership, never relaxing day and night. Without Comrade Kim Chong-il's undescribable labor and efforts, today's boundlessly rich assets of the revolution and construction would have been inconceivable.

As we see the glorious reality of today, we recall the course of the revolutionary activities of the respected and beloved Comrade Kim Chong-il [kyongaehanun kimjongil tongji], which is embroidered with endless loyalty and devotion to the revolutionary cause, and with restless and sleepless efforts. We come to learn deep in our hearts the value of his revolutionary history.

Another reason why we say that the history of the revolutionary activities of the respected and beloved Comrade Kim Chong-il [kyongaehanun kimjongil tongji] is a lofty revolutionary asset is because, during the course of his revolution, a lasting bedrock has been laid for the completion of our revolution to the end. The revolution is a struggle for the future. The future of the revolution is guaranteed by its firm bedrock. In order for the history of the revolutionary struggle of a leader [yongdoja] to become eternally glorious, sociopolitical and material assets must be created during the course of history so as to provide a basis for the ultimate victory of the revolution and for the happiness of generations to come. A firm and lasting basis on which the people can rely on, for generation after generation, is the most valuable national treasure.

During the entire course of his revolutionary activities, the respected and beloved Comrade Kim Chong-il [kyongaehanun kimjongil tongji] has had brilliant foresightedness and a vision for the next one hundred, even two hundred years in the future, with which he provided a lasting bedrock to complete our revolutionary cause to the end. The achievements of these days perfected all the political, ideological, and material assets of our revolution. The assets will display their vitality in the future of communism.

How a leader [yongdoja] builds the party and the army is important to his leadership in the revolution and construction. The party is the staff of the revolution; the revolutionary armed forces are the defenders of the party's cause. The greatness of a leader [yongdoja] is unsparingly displayed in the course of strengthening and developing the party and the army. Having built our party with a vision, and having made the party a militant and tested political organization under the slogan of modeling the entire party after the chuche idea, is an immortal achievement of the great leader [widaehan yongdoja] Comrade Kim Chong-il which was made for the glorious future of our revolution.

Our party, which is the crystal of the ideology and leadership of the respected and beloved Comrade Kim Chong-il [kyongaehanun kimjongil tongji], has become Comrade Kim Il-song's party and is boundlessly faithful to the cause of the great leader [widaehan suryong]. Our party is showing the pride of being a mature and tested iron party with invincible might. Our revolution has been able to overcome all storms and to achieve victory because the party is great and because the entire party, the entire army, and all the people are firmly united around the party and the leader [suryong].

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Our party, which is the crystal of the ideology and leadership of the respected and beloved Comrade Kim Chong-il [kyongaehanun kimjongil tongji], has become Comrade Kim Il-song's party and is boundlessly faithful to the cause of the great leader [widaehan suryong]. Our party is showing the pride of being a mature and tested iron party with invincible might. Our revolution has been able to overcome all storms and to achieve victory because the party is great and because the entire party, the entire army, and all the people are firmly united around the party and the leader [suryong].

The respected and beloved Comrade Kim Chong-il has presented a policy to build the chuche-oriented army, has strengthened the indoctrination work of party politics within the People's Army, and has established the revolutionary system of a brilliant army in which the entire army moves as one under the leadership of the party. As a result, he has strengthened and developed our People's Army into the army of the leader [suryong] and the army of the party.

Since the day the respected and beloved supreme commander Comrade Kim Chong-il's leadership began, a new golden era has opened in building the army. As a result, the political and ideological aspects, and the military and technological might of our revolutionary armed forces and army-people relations, have basically changed.

There are no other words to admire the achievements of the supreme commander Comrade Kim Chong-il, who has built an invincible and strong army that safeguards our revolutionary cause with the barrel of a gun by brilliantly inheriting the tradition of single- hearted unity, the tradition of loyalty of the People's Army. Thanks to the respected and beloved Comrade Kim Chong-il, a strong foundation has been prepared that makes it possible to fully display the superiority of our own style of socialism in all sectors. With the spirit of Chollima and the speed campaign, the respected and beloved Comrade Kim Chong-il has vigorously conducted the all-out march of socialism, consolidating our economic might by all means. In addition, he has conducted a revolution in literature and the arts, opening a great period of flowering and gaining immortal achievements in the history of mankind's literature. As a result, our fatherland has come to be eternally glorified as a powerful country of ideology, politics, and military affairs; as a model country of self-reliant economics; and as a victorious country of culture.

The might of the revolutionary assets achieved by the leader [yongdoja] can be displayed in a difficult period. Even during the difficult period in which we lost the great leader Comrade Kim Il- song, the father of the nation and the pioneer of the revolution, we were able to carry out our revolution along the single road of victory, never faltering. This is because the respected and beloved Comrade Kim Chong-il stands at the vanguard of our revolution, and because of the [word indistinct] eternal assets prepared by Comrade Kim Chong-il.

This revolutionary asset is the valuable resource that makes it possible to lead the people to cherish their conviction for the future and their faith in victory, as well as to vigorously rise in carrying out the struggle to further make our country, our fatherland, prosperous and strong with their one-hundred-and-thousand-fold efforts. Thanks to the immortal assets gained in this glorious era, which is glorified by Comrade Kim Chong-il's esteemed name, our minds are always strong no matter how difficult the future road of the revolution may be. In addition, the future of the Kim Il-song nation and the prospects for our revolution have been firmly guaranteed.

The entire course for which the respected and beloved Comrade Kim Chong-il has laid a strong revolutionary foundation is the course which he has always pioneered the road of the revolution, struggling and upholding the red flag. All the proud assets of our revolution have not been easily achieved. They are the noble revolutionary achievements that the leader [yongdoja] and people have gained with their blood and sweat by overcoming difficult situations with their indefatigable revolutionary spirit and their invincible will.

The great leader [yongdoja] Comrade Kim Chong-il has taken the lead in overcoming the difficult situations of the revolution by cherishing in his heart the will for victory and the sense of mission in order to endlessly complete the revolutionary cause pioneered by the fatherly leader [suryong]. Even if other people discard the revolutionary flag, he will never discard the revolutionary red flag, which was handed over to him by the great leader [suryong] and which preserves the entire life of the leader [suryong]. It is the firm and solid will of the respected and beloved Comrade Kim Chong-il that he will endlessly embark upon the arduous road of the revolution by highly waving the red flag.

The red-flag ideology and red-flag philosophy of the respected and beloved Comrade Kim Chong-il have been preserved in all assets of our revolution. The 30-year history of the leadership of the respected and beloved Comrade Kim Chong-il is the proud chronology of a great revolutionary, the great leader [yongdoja], who has carried out the struggle by upholding the red flag of the revolution. Because of this, Comrade Kim Chong-il's history becomes a textbook of the revolution that brings about a profound revolutionary philosophy for the people, indicating that the life of revolutionaries should begin with the wave of the red flag and the combatant banner that inspires them to bravely overcome any difficult obstacles to winning victories.

For the people carrying out the revolution, there is no other valuable asset than the history of the struggle of the leader [yongdoja]. It is the noble fidelity of revolutionary fighters to glorify the history while knowing its greatness. In addition, this is the most important mission assigned to them before the era and the revolution.

We have witnessed and experienced the 30-odd year-history of the great revolutionary activities of the respected and beloved Comrade Kim Chong-il [kyongaehanun kimjongil tongji] and are the revolutionary fighters who shared the will and the destiny with the leader on this glorious road.

Our ideology and belief took root in our hearts on this historical course, our ideals and ambition were realized with this history, and our life and happiness were turned into bloom in the advance of this history.

It is our people's great pride and happiness to be born in the glorious era led by the respected and beloved Comrade Kim Chong-il [kyongaehanun kimjongil tongji] and have enjoyed the honor of the revolutionary fighters learning the greatness of the history of Comrade Kim Chong-il with our hearts and feeling it keenly with our bone and flesh. Our people will always deeply cherish this glory and endlessly treasure and add luster to the protracted history of the revolutionary activities of the respected and beloved Comrade Kim Chong-il [kyongaehanun kimjongil tongji].

To add luster to the history of the respected and beloved Comrade Kim Chong-il [kyongaehanun kimjongil tongji] is to defend the achievements made by Comrade Kim Chong-il and to wage a vigorous struggle along the road directed by Comrade Kim Chong-il.

The history of the great Comrade Kim Chong-il [widaehan kimjongil tongji] is the lineage of our revolution and the lineage of chuche. The way to add luster to this history is the way to adhere to the purity of the chuche lineage which the great leader provided devoting his entire life to achieve the historic cause of the country's reunification, and to achieve imbuing the entire world with independence.

The Korean revolution pioneered by the great leader is advancing confidently along its track. Undoubtedly, the successive history of the Korean revolution will continue to be created forever in the future by the ideology, wisdom, iron-strong will, and leadership of the respected and beloved Comrade Kim Chong-il [kyongaehanun kimjongil tongji].

To defend, protect, and add luster to the history of the respected and beloved Comrade Kim Chong-il [kyongaehanun kimjongil tongji] forever is the most sacred duty of us all who are the fighters and disciples of Comrade Kim Chong-il. The revolutionary fighter and loyalist who absolutely trusts and defends only the respected and beloved Comrade Kim Chong-il [kyongaehanun kimjongil tongji] is the one who resolutely defends and protects at the cost of his life the great historical assets provided by Comrade Kim Chong-il.

The respected and beloved Comrade Kim Chong-il [kyongaehanun kimjongil tongji] did everything he could for the development of the party and the revolution and for the happiness and prosperity of the country and the people in the protracted course of the revolution as a revolutionary and as a leader.

Dwelling in the history of the respected and beloved Comrade Kim Chong-il [kyongaehanun kimjongil tongji] are all the theoretical and practical problems from which our party and people must take guidance not only in the present times but in the communist future as well. These assets are the almighty valuable sword of our revolution, the eternal life-giving water of our people, and the banner of the immortal struggle of our times.

Rain or shine, we should study the great history of the struggle of Comrade Kim Chong-il, find all the secrets of victory in it, and accelerate the revolution and construction according to the example given by Comrade Kim Chong-il.

If trials and difficulties block our way, we find a breakthrough for victory in the teaching of the respected and beloved Comrade Kim Chong-il [kyongaehanun kimjongil tongji] and struggle with redoubled courage and high confidence cherishing the image of Comrade Kim Chong-il even if we are left alone on a remote lonely island—this should be the struggle motto and inviolable method of activities of the true loyalists and revolutionaries of our times who live and struggle in the style of the great Comrade Kim Chong-il [widaehan kimjongil tongji].

We must ensure that our offspring will also be the eternal fighters and eternal disciples of Comrade Kim Chong-il who treasure like their life the historical assets achieved by the respected and beloved Comrade Kim Chong-il [kyongaehanun kimjongil tongji] and adhere to and inherit them from generation to generation.

The 30-odd years of the revolutionary activities of the great leader Comrade Kim Chong-il will shine forever as the most valuable national treasure of the Kim Il-song nation.

DPRK Article: Leader 'Highest Representative' of Revolutionary Elders

SK1102071496 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0707 GMT 11 Feb 96

["Leader Is Highest Representative of Revolutionary Elders" — KCNA headline]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, February 11 (KCNA) — The great leader Comrade Kim Chong-il put forward the unique idea that the highest representative of revolutionary elders is the leader, in his famous work "Respecting the Forerunners of the Revolution Is a Noble Moral Obligation of Revolutionaries."

The great leader Comrade Kim Chong-il said:

"The highest representative of revolutionary elders is the leader, and loyalty to the leader is the highest expression of the sense of revolutionary obligation."

Noble life of all revolutionary elders who performed impressive feats in the annals of different stages of the revolution is connected with the leader in kinship and, therefore, the leader is the highest representative of revolutionary forerunners, says NODONG SINMUN in an article today.

The author of the article continues:

The reason why the leader is the highest representative of revolutionary elders is that, firstly, he is a supreme brain, who puts forward scientific revolutionary ideas, strategy and tactics, brightly indicating the road ahead of revolutionaries.

The leader sets forth the revolutionary idea which awakens the working people, induces them to the revolutionary road and makes them true revolutionaries.

The leader of the working class originates a guiding idea indicating the road ahead of the times and revolution with his genuine wisdom and penetration and advances scientific strategy and tactics at each period and each stage of revolutionary development.

The revolutionary idea of the working class, strategy and tactics put forward by the leader include all theoretical and practical matters which serve as precious guidelines in the life and struggle of revolutionaries.

The leader also inspires the masses with revolutionary consciousness and organizes them and guides the revolutionary struggle to victory.

The leader always identifies himself with the masses to awaken them to revolutionary truth and rally them into a political force. Secondly, the leader is a great teacher, who ennobles the revolutionary forerunners with precious socio-political integrity and leads them to glorify their noble life on the road of revolution.

The socio-political integrity of the revolutionary seniors is the life ennobled by the leader of the revolution.

As they were integrated with the leader, the centre of socio- political integral whole, ideologically and intentionally, morally and in obligation, they could be ennobled with eternal socio- political integrity. [sentence as received]

Along with it, the leader leads them to steadily add lustre to the socio-political integrity on the road of revolution.

The leader is the eternal sun and benefactor of them, as he ennobles them with a most precious socio-political integrity and glorifies their life continuously.

Thirdly, all achievements of the revolutionary forerunners are made under the outstanding leadership of the leader.

Their achievements made through the arduous struggle have been established on the road of upholding the outstanding idea and leadership of the leader and are handed down through generations thanks to the noble revolutionary obligation and loving care of the leader.

The revolutionary exploits performed by the leader are provided in an integral whole with the revolutionary soldiers and they are just the pick of the achievements of the revolutionary forerunners.

Among the great exploits of the leader are achievements of the revolutionary forerunners.

The famous formularization of Comrade Kim Chong-il that the leader is the highest representative of revolutionary forerunners is of great theoretical and practical significance in establishing the revolutionary outlook on the leader more firmly and revealing and frustrating the counter-revolutionary crimes of the socialist renegades who viciously vilify the leader of the revolution and the revolutionary forerunners.

DPRK Mass Meeting Opposes ROK Construction of Nuclear Plants

SK1002045296 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0322 GMT 10 Feb 96

["Scheme to Build Nuclear Facilities Denounced" — KCNA headline]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, February 10 (KCNA) — Working people in the northern half of Korea have been denouncing the Kim Yong-sam group's scheme to build nuclear reactors and a nuclear waste depository near the Military Demarcation Line (MDL).

A mass meeting held in Kosong County, Kangwon Province on Friday branded the traitorous Kim Yong-sam group's plan to build nuclear facilities as an anti-national crime to inflict nuclear damage on the portion of the North side and, furthermore, to bring a horrible nuclear holocaust to the entire nation.

Speakers at the meeting earnestly appealed to the people from all walks of life in South Korea to turn out more valiantly in the struggle to hold in check and frustrate the criminal move of the Kim Yong-sam puppet clique to build nuclear facilities.

They demanded that the South Korean authorities stop, at once, the criminal move to build large-scale nuclear facilities near the MDL.

Should the Kim Yong-sam group press ahead with the project at all cost they would meet a stern punishment by the entire nation, entirely bearing the responsibility of the irrevocable consequences arising therefrom.

DPRK: PRC Reunification Group Decries 'Persecution' of Coeds

SK1002094096 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0932 GMT 10 Feb 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, February 10 (KCNA) — The China Headquarters of the National Alliance of Youth and Students for the Country's Reunification published a statement denouncing the South Korean puppet authorities' persecution of coeds Chong Min-chu and Yi Hye-chong, who visited the North.

The statement said the righteous activities of Chong and Yi can never be "incriminated". "We, in the name of the Korean youth and students in China, scathingly condemn the Kim Yong-sam group's fascist suppression, branding it as a heinous unpardonable, anti-national, anti-reunification crime," it added.

And it strongly demanded that the notorious "National Security Law", which defines the fellow countrymen as "enemy", be abolished at once and Chong Min-chu, Yi Hye-chong and all other pro- reunification patriots be released immediately.

"We will wage a more vigorous struggle for the release of Chong and Yi and reunification by means of confederacy," the statement said.

South Korea

ROK Article About Impact of Sino-U.S. Conflicts on Seoul

SK1202050196 Seoul TONG-A ILBO in Korean 11 Feb 96 p 5

[Article by former Foreign Minister Han Sung-chu, professor of Korea University from the "Opening the Morning" column: "Sino-U.S. Conflicts Are Not 'Fire Across the River'"]

[FBIS Translated Text] With Taiwan's general election just around the corner, China and the United States are engaged in a war of nerves. As China reportedly prepares to start large-scale military exercises in the Taiwan Strait, the United States, responding to this, has dispatched an aircraft carrier to this area. Tensions are escalating as China stated it is ready to launch missiles if Taiwan continues to claim its independence after the election.

Direct Influence on the ROK

For the last several months, as Taiwan has taken a diplomatic offensive with a view to joining the United Nations, China has showed extremely sensitive reactions. For example, when the United States granted a entry visa to Taiwanese President Li Teng-hui last June, China strongly protested and even conducted missile tests in the Taiwan Strait, escalating tensions. However, chances are slim that the current tensions will develop into an arms conflict between the two countries. Both China and the United States as well as Taiwan are aware of the fact that worsening the situation will not serve their interests.

Taiwan is expected to restrain from making additional efforts to raise its profile on the international arena. China and the United States will also refrain from making remarks that will provoke the opposite side. Nonetheless, the situation may further deteriorate as it is difficult to expect the reasonable adjustment of conflicting interests due to each country's elections and political situation. Furthermore, Chian and U.S. are mired in numerous disputes other than the Taiwan issue, ranging from China's huge bilateral trade surplus to its nuclear testing program, human-rights issue, and alleged arms exports.

As such, disputes over several issues have complicated the situation all together and deepened mistrust and discord between the two countries. This is of great concern as well as a regrettable factor for the neighboring countries in East Asia, especially the ROK.

In the event Sino-U.S. ties deteriorate, negative influences on the ROK will be great. One of the negative influences on the ROK is an economic factor. Ever since we normalized diplomatic ties with China in 1992, economic relations between the ROK and China have enjoyed a remarkable success. Our trade volume with China in 1995 was 17 billion dollars (9 billion dollars in export and 8 billion dollars in import), becoming the third biggest trade partner of the ROK. This is one third of our trade volume with the United States.

The ROK's investment in China has increased from 200 million dollars in 1993 to 2 billion dollars as of the end of 1995. In the event Sino-ROK economic relations suffer due to the friction between China and the United States, it will be a hard blow to the ROK.

Weakened Sino-U.S. relations are a lamentable factor in relation to the policy toward North Korea. Regarding the Armistice Agreement, China has stressed that inter-Korean dialogue be held to discuss the validity of the agreement and the establishment of a peace system.

In fact, there is no suggestion that China has linked the issue on the Korean peninsula with other factors, such as Sino-U.S. relations. However, if Sino-U.S. relations suffer greatly by any chance, our choice will be limited between the allied relations with the United States and the friendly relations with China. In the establishment of a peace system, the reunification process, and the preparation for post-reunification as well as the North Korean nuclear issue, the ROK and the United States need China's cooperation and it is not desirable to have aggravated Sino-U.S relations.

The Necessity of 'Multi-Party Coordination Council'

In light of the importance of the matter, it is my judgment that the countries concerned should attentively watch the development of the matter and engage in negotiations to settle the issue and map out countermeasures.

The negotiations for the stability of this region will not only help bilateral relations, but also contribute to the ROK-U.S.-Japan tripartite parties.

If a multiparty coordination council—which seeks preventive diplomacy, the settlement of conflicts, and the restoration of confidence—had existed at present, the issue would have been naturally discussed. In the discussions, the countries that share the common view on Sino-U.S. relations also may have expressed regret over this incident. The recent matter once again affirmed the necessity of a multi-party coordination council in Northeast Asia.

ROK Editorial Welcomes U.S. Envoy's Remarks on Visa Process

SK1102064796 Seoul SEOUL SINMUN in Korean 11 Feb 96 p 3

[Editorial: "Before Gaining 'Visa-Free' Status"]

[FBIS Translated Text] We sincerely welcome U.S. Ambassador Laney's recent remark that the ROK people may be able to visit the United States without visas within one or two years, at the earliest. His remark is encouraging since it was made at a time when the ROK people's sentiments toward the United States have been aggravated due to various incidents.

Until recently, the United States has maintained that since the rate of visa issuance to the Korean people remains 93 percent, which falls short of the U.S. standard of 98 percent, it cannot sign the agreement waiving visa requirements. Therefore, Ambassador Laney's recent remark can be understood to mean that the United States will loosen its restrictions on the entry of ROK people to meet the trend of the times, even though it is not clear whether his remark implies that the rate of visa issuance has rapidly increased in recent days or that the United States will ease its restrictions on visa issuance.

As a matter of fact, the conditions and standards for issuing visas to the Korean people have not met with the changing times. The world is getting closer and personnel exchanges between the two countries have become more frequent.

We believe that Ambassador Laney will keep his promise so we will wait until his promise is fulfilled. However, before that, we would like to point out some problems in the visa-issuing procedures. The U.S. side stated that the lack of budget is a main obstacle to improving visa-issuing procedures. However, beside the budget matter, there are many ways for the U.S. side to improve visa- issuing procedures. For example, it could reduce the number of interviewees, widen the scope of the Travel Agency Referral Program, and increase the number of windows that accept visa applications. However, most importantly, the biggest problem is the embassy employees' unkindness and overbearing attitude. Unkindness and an overbearing attitude are something that can be improved without additional funding. The Korean people even joke that "once you go through the visa-issuing procedure, you are sure to have strong anti-U.S sentiments." What lies at the bottom of this joke is the insults the Korean people have experienced while gaining visas, rather than delayed service or inconveniences.

Unlike the last half century, the two countries now have many controversial issues in their relations in addition to the visa issue, such as trade frictions, the revision of the Status of Forces Agreement, and the pace of U.S.-North Korea exchanges. We believe that improving the visa issue alone will contribute greatly to the development of bilateral relations. Trivial matters should not harm the essence of ROK-U.S. relations.

ROK Article Reviews U.S. Attitude Toward ROK, DPRK

SK1202123196 Seoul CHOSON ILBO in Korean 11 Feb 96 p 5

[Article by Kim Tae-chung, editor-in-chief of CHOSON ILBO; from the "Kim Tae-chung Column": "Is the United States Changing?"]

[FBIS Translated Text] ROK citizens, in particular conservative quarters that are well acquainted with the traditional friendly relations between the ROK and the United States, fear that certain obvious changes are taking place in the U.S. policy toward Korea. Their doubts are based on the report that the United States has begun to take "independent" action as regards its nuclear negotiations with North Korea. Moreover, the issue of food aid to North Korea, the cancellation of President Clinton's visit to the ROK, and a domestic report that "the United States may remove North Korea from its list of terrorist states" have increased their doubts.

However, U.S. administration officials in Washington have resolutely stated "there has been no change whatsoever in the U.S. policy," and have asserted this was all caused by a "distortion" of the truth by ROK Government officials and the ROK media. In addition to their denial, U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Winston Lord, in a luncheon speech given at the ROK-U.S. 21st Century Committee in Washington on 8 February, pledged "the United States absolutely will not outpace the ROK as regards the North Korean issue."

The U.S. officials has refuted one by one each doubt the ROK people have raised. They stressed that the United States carried out nuclear negotiations with North Korea under close consultation with the ROK, such consultations being unprecedented in U.S. foreign negotiations, and that the $2 million-worth of food aid was decided upon "under the ROK agreement" after sufficiently discussing the matter during the talks in Hawaii. Nevertheless, the ROK opposed the U.S. decision, and the ROK press reported this. Thus, doubts by ROK citizens can be described as "self-generated." The United States has pointed out that during the talks in Hawaii, the United States fully understood the ROK's position and its reasons for not providing rice to North Korea. Since North Korea made an unprecedented formal request for U.S. aid, the United States decided to offer $2 million in aid as an expression of its welcome of such a "change" by North Korea. In addition, by taking into consideration the ROK position of opposing aid according to Section 480 of U.S. Public Law, the United States changed the type of aid into "support for disaster victims." Despite this, the ROK described the aid as unilaterally implemented by the United States, ignoring all ROK opposition. The United States commented that such an act by the ROK "has gone too far."

Concerning President Clinton's visit to the ROK, U.S. officials noted that "from the outset there was no commitment for a visit. This being the case, the cancellation of the visit makes no sense." Although there was a request from the ROK, there was no commitment. Furthermore, even though the ROK repeatedly made the request, they informed the ROK that the visit cannot possibly be made owing to tight schedule. The visit to Japan and Russia was made according to diplomatic formality; thus, their situation is different from that of the ROK. If the visit to the ROK is realized, it would be good. However, if the visit is not realized, it should not be viewed as the United States intending to disregard the ROK. The United States stressed that such a way of thinking is an excessive jump of logic.

Regarding the issue of removing North Korea from the list of terrorist states, the U.S. Government said that it is groundless and that they do not know who "concocted" the issue. Thus, the United States flatly denied this, saying "this is not true." Such assumptions might have been prompted by the fact that U.S. Secretary of State Christopher did not mention North Korea while listing the names of "hooligan states" in a speech, which is indeed a far- fetched interpretation. Since the attitude of responsible U.S. officials is so firm, I feel there is no "hidden agenda" in the U.S. policy toward North Korea and toward the Korean peninsula. I also believe the United States has not carried out any transactions with North Korea, nor is it doing so at present, without the ROK's knowledge.

Nevertheless, I have sensed a certain change taking place in the overall U.S. view on North Korea. My sense is based on U.S. judgment that "North Korea is slowly changing." While engaging in nuclear negotiations with North Korea, the United States has had opportunities to look into North Korea indirectly, and through such opportunities, the United States began to switch its stance to a complex view from the attitude of treating North Korea merely based on the black and white logic. An official stated that although North Korea has not basically changed, its pattern of behavior is changing. The United States should not ignore such factors, and to take advantage of these factors will be conducive to stability and peace on the Korean peninsula. As such, he emphasized that based on this logic, the United States and the ROK should help North Korea make a soft landing. This is the very background of the United States providing rice aid and nuclear reactors to North Korea.

Some U.S. officials asserted that the United States' inducement of North Korea's soft landing is "what the United States has learned" from the ROK's contact of North Korea beginning 1988, and that the United States is following what has done by the ROK since that time. This being the situation, some officials emphasized that one's feeling expressing regret for the U.S. act even while one is doing the same act can hardly be understood.

However, it is likely the United States intentionally ignored the change in the situation within North Korea even while sensing the change in its pattern of behavior. The United States seems seriously worried about the possibility of the collapse of North Korea, about the possibility of a crash, following the increased number of North Korean defectors and economic crisis, including food shortages. U.S. officials declined to respond to the fact that the ROK people, conservative quarters in particular, are displeased with the situation in which the United States is offering relief to the North Korean regime, which has been driven into a corner. However, they stressed it is necessary not to irritate North Korea lest it should commit a devil-like last-ditch act.

During a conference of the ROK-U.S. 21st Century Committee, Brzezinski made a diagnosis of the possibility of the collapse of North Korea. Moreover, as seen in the conference during which the Economy in the ROK and North Korea and the expenses for national reunification were discussed as major topics, the extreme situation regarding North Korea has surfaced as the reality. Nevertheless, the Clinton administration is calling for a soft landing of North Korea even while talking about the danger of North Korea's crash. Thus, we cannot but regard the Clinton administration's view on North Korea as very soft. This being the case, the ROK's view toward the United States cannot remain in the past, and there is no need to do so.

ROK: USFK Civilian Employee Indicted for Murder of Girl

SK1002074896 Seoul YONHAP in English 0206 GMT 10 Feb 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, Feb. 10 (YONHAP) — The Seoul District Prosecutor's Office formally indicted Saturday Henry Kevin McKinney, 36, a civilian employee in the United States Forces Korea (USFK) who was arrested by the local police for beating his live-in Korean girlfriend to death.

It was the first time that Korean investigative authorities have brought a USFK person to court while keeping the accused in custody since the Status of Forces Agreement (SOFA) was signed between Seoul and Washington in 1966.

"It's the first case where the prosecution has arrested and indicted an American suspect immediately after his or her criminal act," a prosecutor explained. USFK authorities gave up their demand for custody of McKinney, he said.

He said that the prosecution found new evidence that there had been feuds between McKinney and his Korean girlfriend's family because the latter had demanded that he stop associating with her, and that was one of the major motives for him to commit the crime.

An electrical engineer, McKinney is suspected of violently beating Kang Un-kyong about the chest and face during a heated argument until she died Jan. 19 at her Socho-dong apartment in southern Seoul.

ROK: U.S. State Department Official Plans 'Unofficial' Visit to DPRK

SK1102085096 Seoul YONHAP in English 0841 GMT 11 Feb 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, Feb. 11 (YONHAP) — An official from the U.S. State Department is reportedly going to make an unofficial visit to North Korea before or after the North's de facto leader Kim Chong-il's 54th birthday (Feb. 16).

A government source here said Sunday that it has been confirmed that Kenneth Quinones, the States Department's North Korea desk officer, plans to make the informal visit to the socialist country within the week.

"As the timing of the U.S. official's projected visit to Pyongyang is timed with Kim's birthday, the visit will have a symbolic meaning of improving ties between the United States and North Korea, the source noted.

"We still don't know what the purpose of the visit is," the source said, and added, "Given the current developments, however, there might be discussions on Washington-Pyongyang issues such as rice aid, mutual opening of liaison offices and the provision of nuclear light-water reactors.

Recalling the United States's recent decision to provide 2 million U.S. dollars worth of food aid to the flood-stricken nation despite the south's objections, apparently aiming to enhance its tie with the north, the source said, "We can't rule out a possibility that Quinones might deliver a personal letter to Pyongyang for Bill Clinton."

If it is true, the letter may include a message to urge North Korea to improve its attitude toward inter-Korean relations, the source speculated.

Quinones will become the first U.S. Government official to travel to the socialist country this year, if the visit actually takes place, the source said.

ROK: DPRK Reportedly Requests Rice Shipments From Thailand

SK1002121996 Seoul YONHAP in English 1212 GMT 10 Feb 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Bangkok, Feb. 10 (YONHAP) — In a bid to ease its acute food shortage, North Korea is renewing its request that Thailand supply it with 500,000 tons of rice in addition to resuming the latter's suspended rice shipment to the North.

(North) Korea International Trade Promotion Committee President Yi Song-nok is expected to discuss the request again when he confers with the Thai commerce minister Monday [12 February], a Commerce Ministry official said Saturday.

Under a 300,000-ton rice import contract, signed in February last year, Pyongyang took 162,000 tons by September. Shipment of the remaining 138,000 tons of rice was suspended at the end of September, however, when it failed to pay about 20 million U.S. dollars out of a total of 23 million dollars for rice shipments made in the previous year.

Following the devastating flood damage last summer, North Korea in a letter written to Bangkok in October asked for the resumption of the suspended rice shipments and an additional supply of 500,000 tons of rice.

The request was renewed by North Korean External Economy Commission Chairman Yi Song-tae when he visited here January, but without result.

So long as the North fails to pay the arrears with its rice payments, the suspended Thai rice shipments to North Korea won't be resumed, let alone an additional rice supply, the official said.

Thai rice crop last year declined due to floods. In addition, major Asian rice producers such as China, Indonesia and the Philippines, having suffered poor rice crops last year, are importing rice. Thai rice for exports is thus in short supply, the official said.

Bangkok sources well versed in North Korean affairs, meanwhile, said that Pyongyang is seeking to import a total of some 2.6 million tons of rice and other cereals from five countries other than Thailand.

After Yi Song-nok, president of the Korea International Trade Promotion Committee, asked Japan to provide 600,000 to 800,000 tons of rice (of which 300,000 tons have been shipped) last summer, the hardline Stalinist country asked Taiwan for 800,000 tons of rice and Egypt for 500,000 tons of rice, according to the sources.

The sources added that they understand Pyongyang has been seeking 400,000 tons of wheat from the United States and 500,000 tons of various cereals from China.

To relieve itself of possible famine, Pyongyang has been mobilizing the entire staff of its embassies and state-run trading firms operating in rice-producing Asian countries such as Thailand and Vietnam for food imports, the sources added.

ROK: DPRK To Continue Accepting Food Aid on Selective Basis

SK1102020596 Seoul YONHAP in English
0152 GMT 11 Feb 96

["P'yang To Receive Rice Aid Continuously, but on Selective Basis" — YONHAP headline]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] New York, Feb. 11 (YONHAP) — North Korea will continue to receive bilateral food aid from foreign nations as before, but selectively accept supports from international relief organizations in consideration of the volume and character of them, an official at the North Korea representative to the United Nations Saturday. [sentence as received]

He made remarks on the premise that the flood-stricken socialist country would not completely stop receiving assistance from the international relief organs.

"Pyongyang's recent decision not to make additional requests for food aid to outside world stemmed from strong backlash from the North's military," the official disclosed, adding that from the beginning, the military have opposed such requests to foreign nations and international relief organs.

He added that another reason of the North's decision to call on outside world to suspend rice aid lies in attempts by some hostile countries and impure forces to abuse the food aid in destroying the North's political system as well as utilizing it as political leverage.

ROK: DPRK 'Apparently' Wants Normal Relations With Germany

SK1202103096 Seoul YONHAP in English
0737 GMT 12 Feb 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, Feb. 12 (YONHAP) — North Korea apparently wants Germany to be the first West European country to normalize relations but Germany does not think it is in a position to do so, South Korea's Ambassador to Germany Hong Sun-yong said Monday.

Hong said that, to Germans, Kim Chong-il's takeover of power from his father Kim Il-song, who died in July, 1994, is a "big joke".

The German Government, however, provided about 100,000 dollars in assistance to North Korea last year in light of the fact that Germany was the only European country which North Korea contacted for government-level aid, he said.

Germany has closer relations with North Korea than other West European nations, the ambassador said, citing Pyongyang's interest section located in Berlin, biweekly charter flights between Berlin and Pyongyang and the North's overseas residents association Pomminnyon headquartered in Berlin.

The German Government does not usually prohibit German businessmen from contacting or visiting North Koreans for business purposes unless they deal with defense items, according to Hong.

"German businessmen would rather maintain good business relations with North Koreans in consideration of long-term bilateral relations," he said.

Another good reason for Germany to maintain good relations with North Korea is that Pyongyang owes Bonn about 100 million dollars, according to Kim.

"They need to maintain good relations if they hope to get repayed," he said. "It is difficult to claim anything when the two are at odds."

"North Korean diplomats in the Berlin interest section seem to feel timid and they do not usually contact people outside their mission because they have to encounter South Korean businessmen and residents out there," he said.

Although the ambassador has tried to learn about the reunification process in Germany, people he has talked with always ask "what kind of unification are you asking about."

"German reunification is in the past and Germans are now focusing on the unification of Europe, called the United States of Europe," he said.

One of the most urgent tasks facing Germans regarding the unification of Europe is a single currency which they believe will replace the U.S. dollar in the international economy.

"A unified Europe will have a population of 370 million and a gross national product far greater than that of the United States," he said, and added that "there is a great possibility for change in the international financial and currency markets."

ROK Article on Major Routes for North Koreans To Defect to ROK

SK1102110796 Seoul TONG-A ILBO in Korean
11 Feb 96 p 26

[Article by Pak Che-kyun: "Three Major Routes for North Koreans To Defect to the ROK"]

[FBIS Summary] Beginning this year, defections to the ROK by North Korean diplomats, such as Hyon Song-il, North Korea's ambassador to Zambia, and his wife; by employees of North Korean companies residing in foreign countries; and by North Korean loggers have increased in number. There are three major routes by which North Koreans can escape from their country.

The first is to defect to the ROK through Yanbian along the boundary of North Korea. Another is to defect through Russia and other CIS nations, where many North Korean loggers are staying. The third is to defect through a third country where North Korean diplomats and employees live, as was the case with the defectors from Zambia.

Of these three routes, many North Koreans defect to the ROK through Yanbian. Approximately 700 to 1,000 North Koreans come to Yanbian every day to purchase goods; some do not return.

Several hundred North Koreans are now living in various areas in the PRC and Southeast Asia after escaping from North Korea through Yanbian. As the number of North Koreans who escape through Yanbian increases, North Korea has sent security officials to Yanbian to arrest those North Koreans who escape.

In 1994, North Korean loggers began to defect to the ROK from their camps in Russia. Many defected to the ROK through ROK embassies in Russia or in other CIS nations.

Most defections through ROK embassies in third countries are done by those holding high-level positions within North Korea, such as Hyon Song-il and his wife, as well as Cha Song-kun.

The number of North Koreans who have defected to the ROK using the above-mentioned methods totals approximately 600 as of present. In addition, there are an additional approximately 1,000 people who have escaped from North Korea and are living in third countries; of those, 50 to 70 have sounded out ROK embassies about defecting to the ROK.

ROK: Japan Claims Sovereignty Over Tokto Islet

SK1002064496 Seoul YONHAP in English 0628 GMT 10 Feb 96

[By Hwang Tu-hyong]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, Feb. 10 (YONHAP) — Koreans' concerns about the inauguration in Japan of a government led by a rightist leader, Ryutaro Hashimoto, were justified Friday when Japanese Foreign Minister Yukihito Ikeda demanded that Seoul cancel its plan to build a wharf on Tokto after claiming territorial sovereignty over the islet.

The unprecedented open claim by the Japanese foreign minister followed an expression of concern by Hashimoto the previous day about Korea's plan to build a wharf on its easternmost islet. Japan has consistently raised the Tokto issue when officials of the two countries meet, but it's the first time that a foreign minister of Japan has publicly called for the withdrawal of Korean coast guards from the remote islet and cancellation of the pier construction project which was announced in 1993.

Unlike his predecessors who approached the Tokto issue in a low key and cautious way, Hashimoto spoke out on the issue in an apparent attempt to gain political leverage against his rival and opposition leader Ichiro Ozawa, who is also a known rightist, a Foreign Ministry official said, and added that the Tokto issue reflects the recent rightist trend in Japan.

Hashimoto and Ozawa have advocated a more active role for Japan in the world's military and political affairs. They have proposed sending armed Japanese forces abroad and revising Japan's peace constitution which prohibits the use of Japanese Self-Defense Forces abroad. Critics argue that they are pursuing a new policy of expansionism.

Japan's claim to Tokto can be best understood in the context of this trend, he said.

"One of the major reasons Japan has openly claimed territorial rights to Tokto at this time, is that it wants to link the issue to Japan's imminent declaration of [a] 200-mile exclusive economic zone [EEZ]," he said.

Japan wants Tokto to be considered a disputed territory so that it can serve as a starting point for its 200-mile EEZ, he said.

"The United Nations Law of the Sea, however, stipulates that any islet where people cannot live without outside assistance cannot be a starting point for an EEZ," he said.

That means that Japan just wants to trigger an international dialogue about the Tokto issue which itself would benefit them by calling into question Korea's right to occupy Tokto, he said.

South Korea, however, holds the position that it will never discuss the issue with Japan, nor agree to mediation by an international maritime affairs court.

The court to be established soon under the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea in Hamburg, Germany, cannot deal with any disputes unless both parties concerned agree.

The court cannot handle any issue concerning territorial disputes either, he said.

"I don't think Japan does not know about these regulations on the EEZ," he said, and added that "what they really want is for South Korea to respond emotionally to give the international community the impression that there is a legitimate territorial dispute about Tokto."

"A weak dog usually barks. Our position is to allow the weak dog to bark until it is exhausted," he said.

"Japanese Foreign Minister Ikeda has insisted on his country's claim to Tokto and that's the end of it," he said.

"We actually occupy the islet and the only thing Japan could do, in that case, is to attack it," he said. "I think Japan has more sense than that."

He pointed out the situation of Sengaku Islands which are actually occupied by Japan although consistently claimed by China and Taiwan.

Japan usually does not make an issue of the islands although China and Taiwan continue to denounce Japan claims of territorial sovereighty over the islands, southwest of Okinawa.

In lodging official protests against Korea about Tokto, the Japanese must have wanted to take advantage of its territorial dispute over northern islands with Russia, the official said.

Another reason for Japan to raise the Tokto issue, is that the Japanese coalition government is currently under fire for a housing lease scandal, and might want to distract public attention by raising the Tokto issue, he said.

ROK Presidential Office Denounces Japan on Tokto Issue

SK1002090296 Seoul YONHAP in English 0822 GMT 10 Feb 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, Feb. 10 (YONHAP) — Japan's raising the Tokto issue caused disharmony in the government's policy toward Japan when the presidential office of Chongwadae issued an statement Saturday denouncing Japan, in an unprecedently strong manner, for violating sovereignty of the Republic of Korea.

The statement even announced cancellation of a meeting between President Kim Yong-sam and a delegation of the Japanese ruling coalition apparently in a show of strong displeasure with the report that the delegation will protest against Korea's occupation of Tokto while meeting with Kim.

The Foreign Ministry [MOFA] in charge of bilateral relations with Japan, however, was reluctant to actively respond to the series of provocations by the Japanese officials on Tokto.

Japanese Foreign Minister Yukihiko Ikeda joined forces with Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto in claiming sovereignty over Tokto Friday when he demanded Korea cancel its plan for construction of a wharf in the islet.

The Japanese Foreign Ministry even summoned South Korea's acting Ambassador Kim Yong-kyu Friday to demand immediate withdrawal of personnel and facilities from Tokto.

All the South Korean Foreign Ministry responded was a statement by Foreign Ministry Spokesman So Tae-won which expressed regret over Japan's claims and reiterating Korea's sovereignty over Tokto.

The ministry issued the "weak" statement and, furthermore, late Thursday night although Hashimoto's remarks were made earlier in the day [sentence as received]. The ministry originally had no plan to issue the statement before being rebuked by Chongwadae, according to sources.

Foreign Ministry officials defended their position, saying that they don't have to respond actively to Japan's provocations on Tokto because the islet is already occupied by Korea.

"Japan, not Korea, is the party which should bark on the issue because Korea is on the apparent edge," an official said.

Critics, however, say that such a position is nothing but an excuse to cover up the ministry's low-profile diplomacy.

They even told that Seoul has no plan to summon Japanese ambassador here to lodge a protest, although Japan did quite the opposite.

The Foreign Ministry was usually reluctant to actively respond to provocations made by Japan apparently in consideration of business relations between officials of the foreign ministries of the two countries.

Last November when former Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama told that the Korea-Japan Annexation Treaty was legal, the Foreign Ministry failed to lodge a formal protest before the presidential office took up an issue with the remarks and even canceled a summit meeting between Kim and Murayama in New York on the sidelines of the United Nations meeting.

The Foreign Ministry tend to take too soft positions in dealing with foreign affairs by putting too much emphasis on daily business relations with foreign countries, resulting in forced expression of strong positions against foreign countries.

The Foreign Ministry, however, does not exist for the purpose of maintaining good private relations between officials of the two countries but exist to gain the maximum national interest even at the cost of personal relations.

The rationale is that putting too much emphasis on personal relationship between officials of the two foreign ministries sometimes cannot run parallel with the national sentiment and even the national interest, critics say.

ROK Article Reviews Tokto Island Dispute With Japan

SK1102044296 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 11 Feb 96 p 2

[Article by staff reporter Son Ki-yong: "Japan Seeks To Provoke Diplomatic War Over Tokto"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] "Barking Dogs Seldom Bite." Whenever Japan claimed that Korea's esternmost island of Tokto belonged to it, Koreans, recalling the saying, have tried to turn a deaf ear to the claims.

Whether the Japanese Government is aimed at winning territorial and economic gains or diverting its people's attention outward, away from thorny domestic issues, it raised the jurisdiction issue once again, bringing bilateral relations to the lowest ebb.

The action was made as both countries are preparing to claim a 200 nautical mile exclusive economic zone in the relatively narrow waters between the two countries.

The EEZ's declaration by any country will shortly trigger the other to follow suit, which will inevitably bring both countries to a negotiating table to set maritime boundaries.

What Tokyo really wants at this stage is not to reclaim forcibly the island, but to turn Tokto and the waters around it into an area subject to territorial dispute recognized internationally.

"Japan appears to be seeking to induce the international community to hold the notion that the island is the target of territorial dispute between the two countries," an official said.

In the least, it seeks to prevent the island from being put into Korea's jurisdiction, timed with the declaration of the exclusive economic zone.

Dismissing Japan's claims as "nonsense," Seoul has so far maintained a low-key approach as it has nothing to win if the issue snowballs into a major diplomatic friction.

Seoul believes that the island is not a matter of bargaining between the two governments as it belongs to Korea in terms of historical background and international laws. Furthermore, a group of Korean security guards are posted on the island around the clock, which means Japan has no other option but war if it really wants to occupy the island.

Meanwhile, Japan has routinely dispatched coast guard ships to the nearby waters apparently to demonstrate ownership and sent a verbal note every summer to Seoul, demanding that Seoul withdraw all personnel and remove facilities from the island.

As part of efforts to strengthen Seoul's claim over the island, Korea has sought to build a wharf since 1993, which is indispensable for delivering daily necessities to those on the island and offering a haven for vessels in emergency situations. The Korea Maritime and Port Administration plans to spend 18 billion won to construct a 80- meter-long wharf, with the aim of completing the construction next year.

Korea's efforts have apparently provoked some Japanese political leaders to make a series of "nonsensical" statements in the past several days.

The Japanese officials are worried that the island would be permanently put into the hands of Korea after territorial boundaries are consolidated following the conclusion of EEZ-related talks. In a sense, Japan's action could be interpreted as a strategy to take the upper hand in the forthcoming talks over the declaration of the EEZ and fisheries issues.

Geographically, the island is located only 49 miles or 92 kilometers away from Korea's Ullung-to, while it is 160 kilometers away from Japan's nearest islands of Oki.

Seoul reaffirmed its intention of pushing ahead with the construction of a wharf as its legitimate exercise of sovereignty.

Besides the conflicting claims over Tokto, Japan is also engaged in territorial disputes with China and Taiwan concerning the jurisdiction over the Senkaku Islands located northeast of Taiwan.

Japan has taken the same approach as Seoul's position on Tokto and remained aloft [as published] over the dispute, despite sporadic claims by Beijing and Taipei, because it has effectively occupied the islands.

As Japan continues to nudge Seoul to directly react to the issue, the Korean Government shifted into high gear overnight yesterday with the presidential house of Chongwadae issuing a strongly-worded comment and cancelling President Kim Yong-sam's scheduled meeting with a Japanese parliamentary delegation.

Now, the territorial issue has turned into a major diplomatic war between the two countries.

So far, Seoul and Tokyo show no sign of seeking a compromise.

Korea's Charge d'Affaires Kim Yong-kyu met Ryozo Kato, director general of the Japanese Foreign Ministry's Asian Affairs Bureau, Friday in Tokyo and traded conflicting claims.

As for the construction of a wharf, Seoul chided Tokyo for intervening in domestic affairs while Japan criticized Korea for violating its sovereignty.

Officials here view the issue not as a fresh one.

Therefore, they are moving to deal with the issue strictly in accordance with the U.N. Convention on the Law of the Sea and other international regimes while rebutting Japan's "nonsensical" claims.

ROK Government Urged To Deal Sternly With Japan on Tokto

SK1102043196 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 11 Feb 96 p 2

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The nation's politicians, regardless of their partisan affiliation, yesterday urged the government to deal sternly with Japan's claim to a long-disputed island in the East Sea, defining it as an infringement upon the sovereignty of Korea's territorial rights.

They said Japan's claim of territorial rights over Korea's easternmost islet of Tokto — Takeshima in Japanese — is preposterous and cannot be neglected.

Japanese Foreign Minister Yukihiko Ikeda demanded Friday that the Seoul Government cancel plans to build a wharf on the island, saying it is Japanese "historically and under international law."

Rep. Kang In-sop of the ruling New Korea Party said Japan regularly takes up the territorial right issue over Tokto islet. "This demonstrates the fundamental nature of the imperialism deep- rooted in the Japanese," he added.

Pak Chi-won, spokesman of the main opposition National Congress for New Politics, said, "It's none of Japan's business. We are building a harbor facility on our own land."

Pak warned the Tokyo government of worsening the already rocky relations between the two countries by making such an "unacceptable" demand.

Rep. Pak Kye-tong of the minor opposition Democratic Party said, "This situation has well been expected since Japan announced plans to ratify a UN Convention on the Law of the Sea, which would allow it to impose an exclusive 200-nautical-mile economic zone."

He maintained that the government take stern diplomatic steps, including calling Korean ambassador to Japan back to Seoul.

Particularly, Rep. Kim Won-ung of the DP asked the government to claim a territorial right on Taemado — Tsushima in Japanese — an island on the Korean Strait, saying there is enough basis to claim the island from the viewpoint of history and international law.

He also claimed that should the Tokto issue be solved clearly, the government should disclose what was included in the 1965 secret memorandum signed by then South Korean prime minister Kim Chong-pil and Japanese foreign minister Masayoshi Ohira.

Kim, now leader of the splinter opposition United Liberal Democrats, has been criticized by reportedly making big concessions to Japan on the Tokto and "comfort women" issues at behind-the- scenes negotiations with Ohira during the 1965 talks on normalization of diplomatic ties between the two countries.

The opposition lawmaker alleged that when the Seoul government banned a popular song, Tokto Is Our Land," in the early 1980s, it was part of its effort to observe one of the agreed items included in the 1965 treaty.

Rep. Son Se-il, a top policymaker of the NCNP, also said the government should have resolved the Tokto issue when it signed the basic treaty with Japan at that time.

Meanwhile, the nation's ruling and opposition parties agreed to convene a meeting of the National Assembly Committee on Unification and Foreign Affairs Tuesday to discuss the issue and adopt a resolution criticizing Japan for making the "preposterous" demand and calling for a stern government response.

ROK: Island Dispute May Jeopardize Scheduled Summit With Japan

SK1202015096 Seoul YONHAP in English 0126 GMT 12 Feb 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, Feb. 12 (YONHAP) — The mounting territorial dispute with South Korea over the rocky islets in the sea between the two countries is likely to get in the way of a summit meeting between President Kim Yong-sam and Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto scheduled for early next month in Bangkok, a vernacular daily here reported Monday.

Japan does not plan to cling to the South Korea-Japan summit although it's final decision will hinge on how the situation develops in the coming weeks, the TOKYO SHIMBUN said, quoting a government source.

The cabinet is not considering revising its plan to ratify the UN Law of the Sea and declaring a 200-nautical-mile exclusive economic zone at its meeting slated for Friday, the source reportedly said.

The Japanese Government is concerned that if the new economic zone includes the islets in question, Tokdo, it would further infuriate South Korea, the report said.

Prime Minister Hashimoto told reporters Sunday that he had wished he could deal with the Tokdo issue and UN Law of the Sea ratification separately, and that he may now have "difficulty" trying to do so.

ROK 'Parliamentarian's Union' Blasts Japan on Tokto Island Issue

SK1202032096 Seoul YONHAP in English
0223 GMT 12 Feb 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, Feb. 12 (YONHAP) — The Korea-Japan Parliamentarian's Union on Monday blasted Japanese Foreign Minister Ikeda Yukihiko for arguing for Japan's sovereignty over the island of Tokdo.

"We cannot restrain our shock and rage along with the entire people," the union said in a statement, demanding that he apologize for and retract his "absurd" remarks. The union is headed by Rep. Kim Yun-hwan, chairman of the ruling New Korea Party.

A statement released in the name of the manager of the union, Yang Chong-kyu, and all other union members, said, "When the Tokdo issue surfaced in Japan before, it used to end up being an internal topic, but, with Foreign Minister Ikeda talking about it openly now, we cannot but be suspicious of the Japanese Government's intentions.

"Minister Ikeda's comments are of no help to future-oriented Korea-Japan relations that we are pursuing," the statement added, "from now on, Japan should be held completely responsible for the worsening of bilateral relations."

ROK Navy-Air Force Exercise Planned Near Disputed Tokto Island

SK1202061896 Seoul YONHAP in English
0559 GMT 12 Feb 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, Feb. 12 (YONHAP) — Amid the Korea-Japan territorial dispute over Tokto in the East Sea, a joint Navy-Air Force war exercise will be launched near the islet soon, the Defense Ministry said Monday.

Ministry Spokesman Yun Chang-no said the joint air-sea exercise near the islet had been a quarterly event of the ministry, adding the first such exercise this year will be conducted within the first quarter.

But the ministry has not yet set a definite time-frame for the exercise, though it is considering launching it as early as Wednesday this week, he explained.

Participating in the air-sea battle exercise will be destroyers, fast patrol boats, anti-submarine reconnaissance planes and jet fighters.

The exercise will start with the deployment of warships and end with fighter attacks on imaginary targets in the area.

The ministry is said to have become more watchful of the islet since a diplomatic row was triggered by Tokyo's claim to it.

Noting an unwavering government conviction that Tokto is Korean territory, another official said the ministry had first decided to postpone the first-quarter exercise to avoid an unnecessary diplomatic row with Japan. This decision was later reversed, however, and the exercise will be conducted as originally planned to display the nation's sovereign power over the islet in the face of Japan's claim to it.

ROK Ambassador To Meet With Ikeda To Discuss Tokto Issue

SK1202080996 Seoul YONHAP in English
0625 GMT 12 Feb 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, Feb. 12 (YONHAP) — Ambassador to Japan Kim Tae-chi will soon meet with Japanese Foreign Minister Yukihiko Ikeda to express regret over Japan's recent claims to Tokto.

Kim will return to Tokyo Tuesday after a one-week annual mission chiefs meeting.

Kim, however, said that he will try his utmost to coordinate the strong sentiments of Koreans against Japan and Seoul's relations with Tokyo.

"It's a very delicate issue. We (Seoul and Tokyo) need to maintain close cooperation in dealing with a variety of international issues, although there exist high tensions between the two countries over the territorial issue," Kim said.

"I don't think living at odds with Japan will finally serve the national interest of Korea when the two countries have so many things to cooperate on in the international arena," he said.

The ambassador said that his meetings with Japanese officials, therefore, will remain at the level of pointing out "regrettable things" about Japan's claim to Tokto. He was answering questions about whether he will lodge a protest or ask for Japan's official apology for the recent remarks by Japanese officials regarding Tokto.

Kim feared the possibility of bilateral relations further aggravating due to the Tokto issue.

The ambassador said that he met with Foreign Minister Kong No- myong early in the morning to discuss the recent dispute with Japan about Tokto but refused to reveal what was said.

There's nothing new about the Japan's claim to Tokto because the Japanese Government insists on its sovereign right to the islet every year through diplomatic channels, according to Kim.

"The basic position of the South Korean Government is that Tokto belongs to our sovereign territory. That's it. We don't need further explanations on Tokto," he said.

Working-level negotiations are underway between the two governments on the declaration of the 200-nautical mile exclusive economic zone (EEZ), according to Kim.

"I understand that the Japanese Government is willing to cooperate with Seoul on the declaration of an EEZ expected Friday," he said, and added that the zone cannot be unilaterally declared because most of the sea between South Korea and Japan is less than 200 miles across.

The ambassador wants to keep the territorial dispute about Tokto and designation of the 200-mile exclusive economic zone separate, and added "I have something in my pocket and then someone claims ownership to it. What do I need to do? Nothing."

ROK: Egyptian President Mubarak Seeks To Visit ROK, DPRK

SK1102081296 Seoul YONHAP in English 0720 GMT 11 Feb 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, Feb. 11 (YONHAP) — Egyptian President Muhammad Husni Mubarak is reportedly seeking simultaneous visits to South and North Korea as early as some time in the first half of the year.

A diplomatic source here said Sunday that President Mubarak has recently conveyed his wish to make the visits to the Seoul Government via diplomatic channels, saying that he is hoping to contribute to the creation of an inter-Korean unification atmosphere through the easing of tensions on the Korean peninsula.

"At present, negotiations regarding the issue are under way between Seoul and Cairo," the source disclosed.

In particular, the source noted, the Cairo government will have Foreign Minister 'Amr Mahmud Musa, who is scheduled to fly to Seoul in mid-March, explain the Mubarak's idea to the South Korean Government and seek cooperation.

The source analyzed that the Egyptian president is aggressively driving his scheme to make the simultaneous calls to two Koreas for the purpose of restoring his country's estranged ties with Pyongyang after Seoul and Cairo opened diplomatic relations last April.

But, Cairo has yet to officially notify Pyongyang of the plan, the source added.

Meanwhile, Mubarak has actively supported the North's position in the international communities in return for the North's dispatch of military pilots to Egypt in 1973, when the Middle East country was at a crisis by Israeli Air Force's heavy air attacks during the Middle East war.

ROK Article Reports CCFE Finds Election Corruption Rampant

SK1102052296 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 11 Feb 96 p 2

[Article by staff reporter David Cho: "Corruption Already Rampant in Elections: CCFE"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The founder and top official of the Citizen's Coalition for Fair Elections (CCFE) said that election law violations, particularly vote-buying schemes, are already widespread among parliamentary candidates.

Prof. Son Pong-ho, executive co-chairman of CCFE, the nation's largest private election watchdog, told THE KOREA HERALD that his organization gets "sixty to seventy reports of corruption every week."

For lack of manpower, the coalition cannot follow up every allegation made against candidates, but it has documented some election law violations and plans to present those cases to the public prosecutor.

Just last week, for instance, the CCFE submitted evidence to the prosecution that showed a candidate hired several buses and took important people in his community to a resort area. The district head later endorsed that same candidate in a speech delivered to a gathering of his employees.

Prof. Son described the incident as "typical of calls we've been getting."

The prosecution is currently investigating the allegations.

Reporting From the Grassroots

These reports originate from independent civil society groups across Korea which join together every election to monitor campaigns and report election law violations.

Altogether, there are 58 separate organizations and a total of 50,000 volunteers working under the umbrella of the CCFE. Some, like the YWCA and the National Association of Teachers, have local chapters all over the country.

These volunteers carefully watch parliamentary candidates in their district and report any illegal activities to the CCFE's main office in Seoul, which acts as the coordinating brain of its individual members. The coalition aims to have eventually three "watchers" per candidate.

"So if someone tells us there is an illegal party going on, we send people to rush with cameras to the scene," Prof. Son said.

If an election law violation gets documented, the CCFE's office in Seoul will present it either to the prosecution or the press. But Prof. Son emphasized that this process must be done with objectivity and care. Reporting candidates' violations can drastically affect the outcome of the elections.

"Just the fact that we go to the public prosecutor does some damage to the candidate," he said. "We cannot do anything if we don't have any substantial evidence."

Even with proof, the group sometimes faces problems. The candidate who was reported to the prosecution by the CCFE last week threatened to sue Prof. Son and his associates for libel.

Evidently, "watching" can be a risky occupation.

A Coalition of Citizens

Recruiting for his team of "watchers" has been difficult for Prof. Son. Besides logistical problems, there were no financial incentives that he could offer to CCFE members. In fact, many pay for the group's activities out of their own pockets.

But the fact that the coalition is owned and run by ordinary citizens gives it power.

As a private organization, the CCFE cannot make arrests, impose penalties or claim the right to see the financial records of a candidate.

But it can inform the public.

And because the CCFE watches from the outside of political circles people tend to trust its reports.

"Our power is the credibility of the people. At least people trust us. They know I am not affiliated with any political party," Prof. Son said. "I do not have any personal reasons to accuse somebody without evidence, and the same goes for the fellows working with me."

That credibility is of utmost importance to the CCFE because many voters and political analysts do not believe the Central Election Management Committee, the government's election watchdog, is politically neutral.

As Prof. Kim Yong-ho of the Institute of Foreign Affairs and National Security put it: "By nature of its organization, the government fair election committee is likely to be vulnerable to the ruling party."

The Coalition and Politics

Gaining the public's trust, however, was not easy for the CCFE.

Prof. Son explained that one phenomenon that does particular damage to the CCFE's reputation is when its members join a political party.

"Some people regard us as if we are trying to make our reputation known so that later we can run for the parliament with some advantage," Prof. Son said. "Well, I can't blame those people, but I'm a bit sad that many of us joined the political parties, even though that is their free choice."

Prof. Son, who also teaches at Seoul National University, affirmed he would never join politics, even for promises of power and money.

"I am afraid of too much power, I wouldn't know how to exercise it," he said laughing. "In a political party, I would be very nervous."

Then, digressing a bit, he light-heartedly added, "You know, this is a very strange country. Everybody thinks that politicians are not very fair and gentle and everybody looks down on them. But everyone wants to become a politician."

"But not me, I feel so happy and comfortable in this organization. These people do not have any personal ambition. They are not interested in money or power, nobody wants to become dominating. They are only interested in justice, social order and welfare. And I enjoy this very much this...fellowship."

ROK: Kim Tae-chung Advocates 'Economy-First Policy'

SK1202032496 Seoul YONHAP in English 0242 GMT 12 Feb 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, Feb. 12 (YONHAP) — Opposition leader Kim Tae-chung on Monday advocated an "economy-first policy" to overcome what he called stark economic realities.

Kim, president of the major opposition National Congress for New Politics (NCNP), proposed the policy at his new year's press conference held with the 15th general elections less than eight weeks away.

The gist of Kim's policy is price stability, enhanced industrial competitiveness, eased restrictions on large business, substantive support for small business, lower tax rates, rice self-sufficiency, labor-management cooperation, and fostering cultural industries.

"To deter President Kim Yong-sam's self-righteousness and solo decisions and to restore the ruling-opposition party dialogue, the NCNP must win at least one-third of the parliamentary seats in the April general elections," he said.

Kim again called for stability through a balance between government and opposition parties by asserting, "If there is no opposition capable of restraining President Kim Yong-sam, the national administration will be disrupted and constitutionalism destroyed."

The opposition leader blasted the performance of Kim's three-year-old administration as "a failure," charging that "an inconsistent way of ruling, devoid of philosophy and principles, has resulted in chronic confusion in national administration and feelings of uneasiness."

Burma

Burma: Request for Khun Sa Extradition Rejected

BK1002111796 Rangoon TV Myanmar Network in Burmese 1330 GMT 9 Feb 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The 10th ceremony to burn confiscated narcotics organized by the Central Committee for Drug Abuse Control [CCDAC] was held at the Police Center on Kyaikwaing Pagoda Road in Mayangon Township at 0800 today.

The ceremony was attended by Lieutenant General Khin Nyunt, secretary-1 of the State Law and Order Restoration Council [SLORC]; SLORC members; Lt. Gen. Maung Thint, vice chairman of the CCDAC and minister of progress of border areas and national races and development affairs; U Ohn Gyaw, vice chairman of the CCDAC and minister of foreign affairs; cabinet ministers, chief justice, attorney general, mayor, deputy ministers, senior officers of the Defense Ministry, director generals and managing directors of the departments and enterprises, members of the SLORC Information Committee, local and foreign journalists, Police Major General Soe Win, secretary of the CCDAC and director general of the Myanmar [Burma] Police Force [MPF], and committee members; responsible personnel of the MPF; ambassadors, charge d'affaires, military attaches, diplomatic officers of the embassies in Yangon [Rangoon]; a specially invited guest, Mr. (Georgio Jecomila), executive director of the United Nations International Drug Control Program [UNDCP]; personnel of the UNDP [United Nations Development Program], UNDCP, and UN; and invited guests.

First, Police Lieutenant Colonel Khan Aung, master of ceremony and deputy director of the Department of Drug Abuse Control of the MPF Headquarters, read out the agenda of the ceremony. Next, Police Colonel Ngwe Soe Tun, joint secretary of the CCDAC and director of the Department of Drug Abuse Control of the MPF Headquarters, explained narcotics suppression activities in Myanmar under the SLORC administration. [passage omitted on drug suppression programs and border area development programs in Burma, government's cooperation with the neighboring countries and international organizations in drug suppression].

Continuing, Police Col. Maung Maung Than, commander of the crime suppression unit, explained about the present and previous destruction of confiscated narcotics. He said the narcotics that will be destroyed today were seized by the Defense Services, MPF, Customs Department, and other organizations. They were handed over to the crime suppression unit after the conclusion of the legal cases. These narcotics include 1,471.372 kg of opium, 82.707 kg of heroin, 12.131 kg of heavy opium solution, 0.876 kg of opium solution, 197.396 kg of marijuana, 1,918.552 liters of Phensedyl [cough syrup], 112.336 liters of various cough syrups and 150 vials of injection solutions that have an opium-like effect. [passage omitted]

Then, Ohn Gyaw, vice chairman of the CCDAC and minister of foreign affairs; and Lt. Col. Kyaw Thein, member of the CCDAC, answered questions from the attendees. Concerning U Khun Sa's group, we have said time and again that we will not hold talks with U Khun Sa and the MTA [Mong Tai Army]. At present, U Khun Sa and his group have surrendered their weapons unconditionally. We neither contacted nor held talks with [Khun Sa]. Concerning Khun Sa, the work will be carried out under the existing law and procedures of the country. U Khun Sa and his group are different from other ethnic armed groups and we do not regard them as such. When asked whether opium production in Shan State will be completely halted, the reply was that we are certain and we can tell you confidently that opium production in regions controlled by U Khun Sa will be significantly reduced.

Concerning the extradition [treaty], the reply was that [the treaty] has been invalid since independence in 1948. In general, the agreements and treaties signed before independence are valid and accepted after the independence but, according to international law, the ruling government after independence has the right to decide whether it will officially accept them or not. The Myanmar Government after independence does not recognize agreements approved before independence. Therefore, there is no need to consider this matter anymore. One embassy requested the extradition of Khun Sa in 1990 and a responsible staff from that embassy was told that we have no intention of extraditing anyone and that there is no such treaty. At present, the MTA group led U Khun Sa is surrendering its weapons and the Defense Services is taking over U Khun Sa's camps. This work will be completed in the near future, and he does not know the exact date when it will be done. The significant point is that opium production, trading, and trafficking in the former opium producing and trading areas will be significantly reduced by government troop control of these areas. [passage omitted on drug suppression activities and border area development programs, and visiting Burmese-American Mr. Ellis Wong's views of the world drug problem]

After that, Minister Lt. Gen. Maung Thint, Minister Ohn Gyaw, and other ministers toured the drug exhibition halls. Next, the staff attending the ceremony witnessed the destruction of 1918.552 liters of Phensedyl, 112.336 liters other cough syrups, and 150 vials of injection solution by a steamroller. Then, responsible staff of the embassies and UN organizations, and local and foreign journalists conducted a chemical test on the narcotics to be incinerated. After the testing, Mr. Valeri V. Nazarov, dean of the diplomatic corp and ambassador of the Russian Federation; Mr. Stuart Hamilton Rawdon Hume, ambassador of Australia; Mr. Bernard Pottier, ambassador of France, and Mr. (Georgio Jecomila), executive director of the UNDCP; pressed the buttons to incinerate 1,471.372 kg of opium, 82.707 kg of heroin, 12.131 kg of heavy opium solution, 0.876 kg of opium solution, 197.396 kg of marijuana.

Burma: National Convention Delegates Groups Meet

BK1002094796 Rangoon Radio Myanmar in Burmese 1330 GMT 9 Feb 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The meetings of the intelligentsia and intellectuals delegates group and other invited guests delegates group were held at the respective meeting halls at the Kyaikkasan Grounds in Yangon [Rangoon] today morning and afternoon.

At the meeting, the alternate chairmen and members of the Panel of Chairmen read out a clarification on laying down detailed principles for organizing the legislative and executive chapters to be included in formulating a state constitution. The principles were delivered in a speech by U Aung Toe, chairman of the National Convention Convening Work Committee [NCCWC], at the coordination meeting of the NCCWC and the Panel of Chairmen held on 26 January 1996.

The clarification was read out to solicit the views of delegates representing the delegate groups.

Burma: Report Says MTA 'Hardliners' To Continue Armed Struggle

BK1102101396 (Internet) BurmaNet News in English 9 Feb 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] From January 5 to 26, 1996, members of the Mong Tai Army [MTA] (formerly the most powerful rebel group in the Shan State) have been surrendering to the SLORC [State Law and Order Restoration Council, group by group, on various occasions and at different places. More than 10,000 are known to have surrendered so far.

But there are still some hardliners who do not want to surrender to the Burmese.

On January 30, 1996, Major Yord Serk, a prominent fighter, managed to sneak out of the area now under Burmese control, and crossed to the west of the Salween with a 7-800 strong force. This news became known on February 2. Their aim and destination is not yet known. But most people think they are heading for Keng Lon, Keng Hkam, Kho Lam, Kengtung and Mong Pan areas to merge with SSNA (Shan State National Army) troops in the areas commanded by Zao Zai Yee.

It appears that these troops do not want the armed struggle to be completely wiped out before their national aim is achieved. They could not keep following the MTA, because it does not represent the Shan State anymore and they wanted to remain faithful to the aims of Zao Kornzurng, the late prime minister.

Though their aims and policies are not yet clearly known, they are assumed to be as follows:

— To try to contact all other ethnic groups which can become a national force of the peoples of the Shan State and try to rebuild national unity.

— To strive to achieve democracy, collective leadership and protection of human rights.
— To strive for the historical rights of the Panglong Agreement.
— To strive to improve the life of the people.
— To strive for peace in Shan State, Southeast Asia and the world.

Burma: More MTA Members Surrender to Defense Services

BK0902163196 Rangoon TV Myanmar Network in Burmese 1330 GMT 9 Feb 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Members of the MTA [Mong Tai Army] led by U Khun Sa have realized and gained a correct view that continuing a drug business that ruins and kills people around the world does not benefit the country; it causes distress and hardship for the people. They have been continuously returning to the legal fold since 5 January.

On 8 February, a group of 158 MTA members led U Han Daing, deputy brigade commander of the MTA's 8th Brigade, who were active in the Namhsan and Lwe Hein regions, returned to the legal fold along with 84 assorted heavy and small weapons and three pieces of communications equipment. A total of 20 MTA members led by Captain Beda of the MTA's 273d Brigade also returned to the legal fold along with 16 assorted weapons.

A ceremony to surrender the weapons to the No. 1 Tactical Operation Group of the Eastern Military Command and to return to the legal fold was held in Namhsan. The surrender ceremony was attended by Lieutenant Colonel Khin Maung Soe, acting tactical commander of the No. 1 Tactical Operation Group of the Eastern

Military Command; high-ranking Defense Services officers; members of the Namhsan Township Law and Order Restoration Council; members of the Union Solidarity and Development Association; and local residents. At the ceremony, the acting tactical commander delivered a welcome speech. After his speech, U Han Daing and U Beda explained that they have realized the state government's kind goodwill toward the jungle-based armed groups. They said they have gained the correct view and returned to the legal fold and thanked the Defense Services. The surrender ceremony ended in the morning after responsible Defense Services personnel greeted and provided the necessary assistance to the MTA members.

A total of 12,886 MTA members led by U Khun Sa have returned to the legal fold along with 7,610 assorted weapons — including 178 MTA members of the MTA's 8th and 273d Brigades who surrendered along with 100 assorted weapons — since 5 January 1996. It has been learned from the authorities that the remaining MTA members will continue to surrender.

Brunei, Malaysia & Singapore

Singapore

Singapore Daily Urges Indonesia To Delay Building Nuclear Plant

BK0802141896 Singapore THE STRAITS TIMES in English 8 Feb 96 p 44

[Editorial: "Caution — This is Nuclear"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] An Indonesian environmental group which polled a sampling of Javanese people a month ago on nuclear energy drew a resounding negative answer. This was expected. Nuclear power generation has had a bad name ever since a fire which damaged the Chernobyl plant in the Ukraine in 1986 spewed radioactivity over large swathes of northern Europe. This poisoned the food chain and possibly seeded cancers and mutations for decades to come among exposed Ukrainians and the unborn. Although the overall safety record of nuclear power stations worldwide has actually been good, morbid fascination turns on the fact that there is no escaping the dire consequences if an operating error or accident occurs in a plant. The Javanese, therefore, have reason to be worried. Central Java is where a reactor is likely to be built. Remarks by President Suharto and Research and Technology Minister B.J. Habibie about nuclear energy being inevitable for a nation seeking industrial take-off are a positive indication that Indonesia means to proceed at some stage. A strong hint was the visit to Indonesia last July of Mr. Hans Blix, head of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), a United Nations body which monitors and regulates the peaceful use of nuclear energy. In what sounded like an endorsement, he said Indonesia's choice was fossil fuels or nuclear, and "I think you need both because you are increasing your electricity usage". He also added the obligatory rider: "But you've to be cautious."

The point is conceded that Indonesia requires power in much larger quantities and more quickly, not only to serve as many of its 190 million inhabitants as is technically feasible, but also to power industry. As shown in Japan, South Korea and Taiwan — where the nuclear share of power generation runs 30 to 45 per cent — the hi-tech route is the wave of the immediate future. China's percentage is much smaller. Yet it has 15 reactors. Some countries, however, are better able to manage the complex technology than others. Indonesia, obviously, would be hard put to place itself in the same technological league as Taiwan or South Korea. Managing a nuclear power station demands multifarious disciplines — maintenance engineering, disaster containment, the safe disposal of waste by-products. Scientists and technicians for these tasks cannot be trained overnight. Indefinite reliance on imported expertise is not a viable option.

Those factors have relevance as the probable location for Indonesia's first reactor is close to Mt [Mount] Muria in Central Java, 440 km from Jakarta. As this area is known to have been unstable, with its history of volcanic and earthquake activity, the high 78 per cent margin of the Indonesian Environmental Forum's (Walhi) poll opposed to such a facility should not be disregarded. Seven non-governmental organisations have joined Walhi to campaign for a re-think by the authorities. Neighbouring countries will calculate that they will not be spared the effects of an accident. On its side, Indonesia can cite the IAEA's authoritative view that current-generation reactors are built to withstand shocks, like the one in Kobe which was unscathed in last year's quake. There are plenty of nuclear stations in quake-prone California and Japan. And, lest it escapes notice, the Javanese (60 per cent of the nation's population) will be the first victims in a nuclear accident.

That notwithstanding, how the matter is resolved is of concern to Singapore and Malaysia. Papua New Guinea, the Philippines and Australia also have a stake in it. An environmental impact assessment, translated as advanced planning, is awaited. As the gestation period from conceptual stage to construction is anything from five to 10 years, this is the appropriate time for Singapore and Malaysia to convey to Jakarta their views. Two points are worth stressing: the feasibility of choosing another site on delaying the project until Indonesia is sure it wants to embrace the new technology.

Cambodia

Cambodian Paper Condemns Planned Lawsuit

BK0902052196 Phnom Penh NEAK PRAYUT in Cambodian 5 Feb 96 pp 1, 4 (Tentative)

["Youngster's View" column by A Steav: "Is it the Blood of Journalists or Money That's Being Relished?"]

[FBIS Translated Text] It is rumored that NEAK PRAYUT will be sued for having spoken out too pointedly. We are not afraid of the lawsuit in the least because what we have said does not serve the Vietnamese and their puppets or ruin Cambodians. We are not scared because if we are imprisoned by the Vietnamese puppets, this will emphatically show that we have preserved our ideal as Cambodians defending Cambodia's interests.

We feel hurt, however, because we do not know what the exact purpose of their lawsuit is. Is it to curry favor with the Vietnamese puppets or to extort money from journalists?

If you sue us — and we are innocent — to curry favor with the Vietnamese and their puppets, you will be truly an out-and-out dog, with ideals more degraded than those of a beast. If you are broke and sue the journalists for their hard-earned money to share and enjoy among yourselves at our expense, you will be a devil sucking other people's blood. Nonetheless, it is not that easy for you to extort the money that the journalists have earned with much difficulty, even facing death to do so. You will be exhausted before you can rip off the money. Don't be confused! Nobody will be happy to give out money they have earned by risking their lives so you can enjoy lavish, voluptuous living.

If you, the beasts, feel thirsty for our blood, you can suck it. As for us, we are ready to shed our blood on Cambodian soil for the sake of the Cambodian nation rather than to suck the blood of Cambodians on Cambodian land.

Cambodian Government Summons NEAK PRAYUT Editor

BK1002131396 Phnom Penh REAKSMEI KAMPUCHEA in Cambodian 10 Feb 96 pp 1, 11

[Report by Prean Vichet]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Sam Vuthi, editor of the local newspaper "NEAK PRAYUT," was subpoenaed by the Phnom Penh Municipal Court prosecutor for questioning on the morning of 8 February. The summons was issued after the Royal Government of Cambodia [RGC] had sued the newspaper for some of the articles it published recently.

Chhin Chiva, the prosecutor at the municipal court, disclosed that he had received a lawsuit against NEAK PRAYUT Editor Sam Vuthi from RGC Lawyer Dr. Kau Bunhong.

The prosecutor told REAKSMEI KAMPUCHEA on the morning of 8 February that "I am conducting a preliminary investigation." That is, he invited Sam Vuthi, the defendant, to clarify the situation surrounding the charge and will see whether the accusation is substantiated.

Chhin Chiva revealed that Sam Vuthi has been accused of publicizing four false stories in recent NEAK PRAYUT issues, defaming the RGC, incitement, and contempt of the king, which might affect the prestige of the Kingdom of Cambodia. The following are the four articles:

1. The youngster's view entitled "They Are Completely Insane."

2. The article entitled "Washington Has Ordered the Closure of the Embassy...[ellipses as published]"
3. The article entitled "If You Are Smart, Please Try."
4. The column entitled "Whither [Information Minister] Ieng Muli's Political Life?"

Sam Vuthi acknowledged in the presence of Phnom Penh Municipal Court Prosecutor Chhin Chiva as well as other national and international reporters on 8 February that his newspaper had actually carried the four articles. He added: "Since I am accused, I might be wrong... [ellipses as published]. So, I will get a lawyer to defend my wrongdoings."

However, the editor did not name the lawyer he intends to ask to defend him. [passage omitted]

Cambodia: Khmer Rouge Says 2 Tanks Destroyed, 1 Captured

BK0902052296 (Clandestine) Radio of the Provisional Government of National Union and National Salvation of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 8 Feb 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Here is a preliminary report on the destruction of two two-headed tanks and the capture of another by our National Army combatants on the Route-Battambang battlefield.

1. The two heads mustered and dispatched their troops backed by tanks and artillery pieces on 8 February to

retake (?a position) and Phnum Sloek Hill, south of Route 10.

2. After a day-long battle, at 1700 our National Army combatants destroyed two two-headed tanks in the area with their fire and captured one in good order.

Our National Army combatants are in the process of further surrounding, intercepting, and destroying the remaining enemy soldiers.

Indonesia

Indonesian Officer: ICRC Team Awaiting Kidnappers Contact

BK0902135296 Jakarta ANTARA in Indonesian 1141 GMT 9 Feb 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Jayapura, 9 Feb (ANTARA) — As of today, a team from the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) under the leadership of Henry Fournier, ICRC chief representative in Jakarta, is still in Mapenduma, Tiom Subdistrict, Jayawijaya District, Irian Jaya.

Infantry Lieutenant Colonel Maulud Hidayat, head of the Information Service of the Trikora 8th Military Region Command, told ANTARA in Jayapura on Friday afternoon that a team comprising three people — Henry Fournier, Madame Silian, and Dr. Mayec — had been in Mapenduma since Thursday, 8 February.

He said the three will be in Mapenduma for an unlimited period. This is in line with the mission entrusted to the team to remain in Mapenduma until Kelly Kwalik, leader of the GPK [security disturbance movement] that kidnapped 13 researchers of the '96 Lorentz expedition, makes contact with them.

Maulud Hidayat said that apart from this, the ICRC has also sent a fact-finding team to Timika. The identity and number of people in this team are unknown.

He said besides the ICRC team, the National Commission on Human Rights had decided to send two of its members, Asmara [word indistinct] and Hasibuan, to Mapenduma to monitor and collect data on the situation for discussion at the committee meeting in Jakarta. [passage omitted]

Indonesian Military Denies Burning Village Allegation

BK0902125396 Jakarta ANTARA in Indonesian 0908 GMT 9 Feb 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Jayapura, 9 Feb (ANTARA) — The Trikora 8th Military Region Command which covers Maluku and Irian Jaya has strongly denied foreign reports that personnel of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Indonesia [ABRI] have burned down most of the houses in Mapenduma Village, Tiom Subdistrict, Jayawijaya District, Irian Jaya.

Infantry Lieutenant Colonel Maulud Hidayat, head of the Information Service of the Trikora 8th Military Region Command, told ANTARA in Jayapura [words indistinct] that ABRI personnel also shot animals belonging to villagers and terrorized residents.

He said the totally wrong information originated from Mozes Weror, (?a spokesman) of the Irian Jaya GPK [security disturbance movement, the official name for the OPM or Free Papua Movement] during a news conference in Sydney, Australia on Thursday (8 February).

Maulud Hidayat said ABRI was instead trying to convince local residents who fled into the jungle after a Lorentz 95 research team was kidnapped and taken hostage by a GPK group led by Kelly Kwalik on 8 January, to return home.

According to him, 359 residents returned to their home village by Friday morning and the rest are expected to gradually leave the jungle within the next few days. [passage omitted]

Indonesia: More on East Timorese in Australian Embassy

BK0902112396 Jakarta MERDEKA in Indonesian 9 Feb 96 p 2

[FBIS Translated Text] Nine youths claiming to be from East Timor sought asylum at the Australian Embassy located on H.R. Rasuna Said Avenue, Kuningan, South Jakarta on Wednesday night (7 February). Like their colleagues who previously sought asylum at the embassy, the nine youths entered the embassy compound by jumping over the fence at 2250 West Indonesian Standard Time during a downpour.

The names of the East Timor youths have been witheld by Australian Embassy officials. Even police are unable to obtain their names. An officer of the Setiabudi Precinct Police told MERDEKA: "Even police officers are unable to obtain the youths' names, although we have been waiting here since last night."

The nine East Timor youths — seven boys and two girls — remained at the embassy Thursday evening (8 February). Dozens of personnel deployed by the Setiabudi Precinct Police and a military district command are seen on guard to anticipate the possibility of more East Timor youths trying to enter the embassy. With the exception of the embassy officials who have witheld the youths' names, nobody else knows where in the embassy they are.

Indonesia: East Timorese Denied Political Asylum in Australia

LD1102134296 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 1200 GMT 11 Feb 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] A group of nine East Timorese in the Australian Embassy in the Indonesian capital, Jakarta, have been told they do not qualify for political asylum in Australia. The seven men and two women were told of the decision during the fourth day of talks with embassy officials. Jakarta correspondent Michael Maher reports:

[Maher] An embassy official says the nine asylum seekers have been told that their options include applying for visas to go to Australia or to travel to Portugal, East Timor's former colonial administrator. However, political asylum in Australia has been ruled out on the grounds that the nine have provided no basis for considering such a request.

The Australian Embassy has also revealed for the first time that after entering the embassy compound late last week the nine East Timorese went on hunger strike for three days. An embassy official said that early today [11 February] the asylum-seekers began taking food but refused to say what condition the nine were in, stating only that an embassy doctor was monitoring their condition.

Laos

Laos: Talks Held With Thai Government Delegation 7 Feb

BK0802081796 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 1200 GMT 7 Feb 96

[FBIS Translated Text] A meeting between a Lao People's Democratic Republic [LPDR] Government delegation and a delegation of the Government of the Kingdom of Thailand was held at the (?Belvedere) Hotel in Vientiane this morning. The Lao delegation was headed by His Excellency [H.E.] Phao Bounnaphon, minister of communications, transport, posts, and construction, who was assigned by the Lao Government to act on its behalf; the Thai side was headed by H.E. Samak Sunthorawet, deputy prime minister. The meeting was attended by many concerned officials from both sides.

During the meeting, H.E. Phao Bounnaphon, minister of communications, transport, posts, and construction, informed the Thai side of the development of communications lines in Laos. He pointed out certain difficulties as well as favorable conditions regarding the issue. The Thai side expressed its sincerity with regard to maintaining cooperation with Laos in carrying out the communications work, and in particular, regarding cooperation in building a road linking Paklai District and Boumlao in Sayaboury Province, a village opposite Khok in Thailand's Uttaradit Province, and the building of Highway No. 8 leading to the Vietnamese border. In addition, the Thai side also showed interest in the building of the Vientiane-Nong Khai railroad and another railroad linking Vietnam and the northern region of Laos.

The Thai Government delegation led by H.E. Samak Sunthorawet, the deputy prime minister, arrived in Vientiane this morning on a four-day visit to the LPDR.

Laos: Khamphoui Keoboualapha Meets SRV Cooperation Group

BK0902131796 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 1200 GMT 8 Feb 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Yesterday afternoon, Khamphoui Keoboualapha, deputy prime minister and chairman of the Planning and Cooperation Committee, received at Office of the Planning and Cooperation Committee a delegation of the Vietnamese Scientific and Technical Cooperation Committee led by Prof. Dang Huu, member of the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee, minister of science, technology, and the environment, and chairman of the cooperation committee. The Vietnamese cooperation committee delegation is currently on a visit to Laos to attend the ninth Vietnamese-Lao scientific and technical meeting, which was convened in Savannakhet Province on 6 February.

On this occasion, Dang Huu informed Deputy Prime Minister Khamphoui Keoboualapha of his delegation's activities during the visit. In particular, he briefed the deputy prime minister on the outcome of the ninth scientific and technical meeting. Khamphoui Keoboualapha welcomed the Vietnamese delegation and highly valued its working visit to Laos. The visit, he said, has contributed to promoting and expanding the long-standing friendly relations, special solidarity, and all-round cooperation between Laos and Vietnam, especially cooperation in the scientific and technical fields. He also wished for new progress in and further expansion of the cooperation.

During the working visit to Laos from 4 to 8 February, the Vietnamese Scientific and Technical Cooperation Committee delegation participated in the ninth scientific and technical meeting between Laos and Vietnam. It discussed with our Lao side the development of its scientific and technical relations with our Lao science, technology, and environment organization. The delegation also visited some production establishments and cultural places in Savannakhet Province and Vientiane municipality.

Philippines

Philippines Official Denies 2d Naval Encounter With PRC

BK1002075296 Manila THE MANILA CHRONICLE in English 6 Feb 96 p 3

[REport by Edith Alejandro]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Philippine territorial waters have long been open to foreign intrusions as local militarily personnel allowed cargo vessels coming from other countries to pass through.

This developed as Defense Secretary Renato de Villa denied there was a second encounter between the Philippine Navy and anti-piracy patrol units, on the one hand, and two decommissioned Chinese military vessels on the other.

A report submitted by Pio Carranza, flag officer in command and concurrent Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) Vice Chief of Staff, Renato de Villa said the reported encounter involving the Philippine National Police Recom [Regional Command] 4 was "one and the same incident that happened on the night of 22 January," where government forces chased and engaged the intruders in a 90-minute gun battle.

According to a source in the military, Chinese, Taiwanese and Japanese vessels have used the route for years now and because of the limited force of the Philippine Navy to prevent encroachment on Philippine waters, the area has become vulnerable to foreign intruders who have been violating the law of the sea.

Reports said that fishermen in the area have been witnessing the smuggling operations in Zambales, which has been going on for years now.

The report said one foreign vessel with Filipino crew had a plan to launch successive pirate attacks, but for unknown reasons the plan did not materialize.

Despite this claim, de Villa stood firm that the military has yet to establish the identity of the foreign vessels adding that unless the Navy captured an intruding vessel the case would not be resolved.

Nevertheless, to check intrusions, de Villa said, the military has increased deployment of military vessels patrolling the area, strengthened the coast-watch system and organized fishermen for intelligence networking for self-protection and information.

He denied, however, that the stepping up of security measures are in preparation for the Asian Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) meeting to be held in Subic this November.

The military is also investigating alleged reports that during the reported gun battle, local fishermen found that there were Filipino crew members boarding the fishing vessels involved and believed they were involved in gunrunning.

Philippines: Ramos, PNG Official Discuss APEC, Ties

BK1202062996 Quezon City Radio Filipinas in English 0230 GMT 9 Feb 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] President Ramos [word indistinct] currently (?holding) discussions with Prime Minister Julius Chan of the independent state of Papua New Guinea [PNG] during their meeting at Malacanang today, particularly on the directions the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation or APEC will take this year under the chairmanship of the Philippines.

In a statement, the chief executive said, and we quote, as APEC member countries, the Philippines and Papua New Guinea hold many interests in common. We will collaborate to ensure that the APEC tasks [word indistinct] delegates to all Asia-Pacific region in particularly to the region's developing countries. [no reference to close quotation as heard] The president said his meeting with Prime Minister Chan will also provide a valuable opportunity for the Philippines to strengthen linkages in the South Pacific region where Papua New Guinea plays an important role.

President Ramos said Prime Minister Chan is leading a high-level party that includes the minister of civil aviation, culture and tourism as well as senior foreign affairs officials, trade, finance and local government. During the meeting, the president said he will also discuss with Prime Minister Chan the further expansion of bilateral relationship between the two countries as manifested by the Philippines-New Guinea Memorandum of understanding (?on) tourism cooperation that will be concluded during the PNG's leader's visit.

Philippines Muslims Rally Against Proposed Antiterrorism Law

BK1202044096 Manila BUSINESS WORLD in English 12 Feb 96

[Unattributed report — received via Internet]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Thousands of Filipino Muslims staged a peaceful protest yesterday against the proposed anti-terrorism law, denouncing it as anti-Islamic. An army officer put the crowd at 5,000 and said more were arriving all the time for the protest at Mindanao State University. Heavily armed troops and police were on standby but remained outside the campus, in the mountain city of Marawi on the main southern Philippine island of Mindanao. "We acknowledge and support government efforts to crush terrorism but must not infringe upon constitutionally protected freedoms, human rights and civil liberties," the rally organizers said in a statement. Protesters were especially stung by what they see as an assumption that all Muslims support terrorism.

Thailand

Thai Commentator Criticizes U.S. Drug Suppression Program

BK1102120296 Bangkok THE SUNDAY POST in English 11 Feb 96 p 22

["Comment" by Andre McNicoll: "U.S. Should Forget About Khun Sa"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Khun Sa, the infamous drug warlord of Southeast Asia's Golden Triangle, has "surrendered" to Burma's equally infamous State Law and Order Restoration Council. Predictably, Washington is exerting enormous pressure on Rangoon to extradite the Shan leader to the United States.

This pressure must be resisted.

The disappearance of Khun Sa from the drug trafficking scene is an opportunity for creative thinking, not for labouring under the illusion that law enforcement works.

Senior officials at Thailand's Office of Narcotics Control Board readily admit that the demise of Khun Sa will not reduce drug output in the Golden Triangle.

So does Richard Dickins, Law Enforcement Adviser to the United Nations International Drug Control Programme. Production and trafficking will be taken up by splinter rebel groups or tacitly allowed by Rangoon, which simply doesn't have the resources to improve the living conditions of impoverished drug farmers.

Also very likely is that opium cultivation and heroin production will continue to be pushed into more remote areas, where they will be more difficult to control.

Over the past several years, much heroin production has shifted to remote hilly areas in Laos, Cambodia, and China's southern province of Yunnan. When he surrendered, Khun Sa had already lost much of his influence in the world drug trade.

Useless efforts: The danger in Burma handing over Khun Sa to the United States is that Americans would gloat over their "success" and try to convince the world that their costly and largely useless supply reduction programme works.

It doesn't.

Supply reduction, which is based on quasi-military operations, invariably results in more serious drug problems as production is pushed into more remote areas or new regions and countries altogether, and users turn to more concentrated and harmful forms that are more easily smuggled because their volumes are smaller.

In the early 1970s, for instance, President Richard Nixon launched a disastrous campaign to stop Mexican marijuana from entering the U.S. Disastrous because it was so successful that within months many thousands of users switched to cocaine.

In more recent years, with the provision of "aid" in the form of jeeps, helicopters, and military "advisers" to authorities in Colombia, supplies of cocaine were curtailed.

The result: a crack epidemic in America's slums. And marijuana production in Mexico and Colombia (major suppliers to the U.S.), has been largely replaced by hashish, a more potent and concentrated form of drug. Again, thanks to law enforcement.

Though rates of narcotic addiction are high throughout Southeast Asia, glue sniffing and speed (methamphetamine) are far more serious problems than heroin. But because the U.S. dominates the international debate on drug trafficking, many countries are dragooned into spending their scarce resources fighting drug problems that simply are not a priority for them.

America's drug problem is not the same as the drug problem in the rest of the world. In the United States, illicit drug use is concentrated in large urban slums. In these nests of violent crimes, the use of drugs is focused on by politicians and police organisations eager to cash in on the public's well-founded concern for personal safety.

A study in Miami has found that heroin addicts commit an average of 337 crimes a year, about half of which involve the use of a weapon. But it is doubtful that the level of violence would diminish noticeably even if the demoralised denizens of these slums — some of the worst in the world — would limit their drug use to an occasional tablet of Tylenol.

Also largely ignored for decades is the massive flow of illicit drugs from Western countries to developing countries. In 1994 — and this is only one of hundreds of such cases — 90 million tablets of diazapam (the tranquilliser Valium) made their way from Ireland to Nigeria's illicit drug market.

Ephedrine, a compound used to manufacture speed-type drugs — which are truly vicious — is being shipped illegally by the ton out of Eastern Europe.

And no one seems to give a damn.

Stop the charade: The policy of opium suppression, which has been pursued in northern Thailand and elsewhere, thanks to relentless American pressure, has had sadistic results.

A survey in 1992 conducted by Thailand's Chiang Mai University of villages where opium cultivation was suppressed in favour of cash crops such as cabbages, reported that villages were "full of heroin addicts."

In some, as many as 20 percent of the entire population (including children) were addicted to heroin. Prior to suppression of opium cultivation, the use of heroin in these villages was unknown.

Americans and their friends should forget about Khun Sa and concentrate on rural development and primary health care. Finally, they should admit that opium cultivation should be allowed on small, supervised plots for the sick, who have no other medicine, and for old opium smokers, who would no longer have to turn to heroin.

Thailand: Dealers Lobby Politicians To Buy F-16 Fighters

BK0902132496 Bangkok THAILAND TIMES in English 9 Feb 96 p A1

[Unattributed report]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Bangkok: Aircraft dealers have tried to persuade Thai politicians to purchase F16 jet fighters rather than F18s, according to a military source yesterday.

The Air Force official, who asked not to be identified, said such lobbying takes place whenever there is an arms purchase.

"The arms dealers are approaching a group of politicians in charge of national security," he said but refused to elaborate further.

The official said the arms builders claimed F16s and F18s have similar capabilities.

"However, we cannot tell who will benefit from the great profits from the arms purchase," he said.

The F18s are made by the US-based McDonnell Douglas Co with a price tag of about US $35 million per plane, while F16 Fighting Falcon jets are manufactured by Lockheed Aviation Technical Aircraft Systems. One F16 costs about US $25 million.

Senior Air Force officers have said the French-made Mirage 2000-5 jet is another choice of the Royal Thai Air Force (RTAF) if the US fails to sell F18s with its Advanced Medium Range Air-to-Air Missiles (AMRAAM) as requested.

The source said Mirage jets fly faster than F16s.

The Air Force plans to replace all F5 jet fighters with the new generation jets within two years, he added.

Among the RTAF's alternatives are the French-made Mirage and the British Tornado.

Thailand: Foreign Student 'Activists' Closely Monitored

BK1102120596 Bangkok THAILAND TIMES in English 11 Feb 96 p A1

[Unattributed report]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Bangkok: Police are closely monitoring the movement of foreign student activists prior to the forthcoming Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM), fearing that they will create disturbances during the summit, according to a well-informed police source.

Particularly, Maung Maung Than, a leading Burmese student activist, and Australian Jemy Parker are being closely watched as it is believed they definitely intend to participate in the planned protests by several NGOs during the first-ever ASEM.

Maung Maung Than and Parker joined the Burmese students staging a protest against the State Law and Order Restoration Council (SLORC) during the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Summit in December last year.

About 80 representatives from 30 non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in Asia and Europe will reportedly attend the Asia-Europe NGO conference to be held February 27-29, only one day before the ASEM.

Maung Maung Than, 28, was a graduate from a university in Rangoon in 1988 before joining the All Burma Students Democratic Front (ABSDF) to fight against the SLORC along Thai-Burmese border.

In 1993, he entered Thailand to make a move against the Burmese military regime as the secretary-general of the Overseas National Student Organization of Burma (ONSOB). He was arrested by Thai authorities prior to receiving a scholarship to study in Australia, where he joined the All Burma Democratic Student's Organization (ABDSO), a Burmese student group based in Australia.

After participating in the protest during the ASEAN Summit, Maung Maung Than proceeded to Japan, Taiwan, Hong Kong, and the Philippines before going back to Australia.

The police noted that the countries that he visited, apparently ones with domestic problems, and facing conflicts with several nations attending the ASEM, including Hong Kong and Taiwan, who are involved in disputes with China.

Taiwan is struggling for its autonomy from China while Britain is to return Hong Kong to China in 1997, which triggered a chorus of dissatisfaction by people in the island which has been under democratic rule.

The Student Federation of Asia (SFA), which has its headquarters in Hong Kong, also planned to move to another Asian country. Thailand and the Philippines are being considered as their new base.

The police are also following the movement of Suriyasai Takasila, chairman of the Student Federation of Thailand (SFT), who was in Hong Kong late last month to attend the meeting of the SFA. This was an indication that the SFA will join the protest by Hong Kong students during the ASEM who disagree with the return of the island to China.

Parker, who is Maung Maung Than's associate, proceeded to Britain, Switzerland, and Australia after participating in the Burmese students' protest during the ASEAN Summit, said the source.

The Australian student leader is said to have planned to come to Thailand during the ASEM, and is believed to be definitely intending to join the protests.

Thai Army Officer Denies Alleged Support for Karen Faction

BK0902150796 Bangkok Radio Thailand Network in Thai 1200 GMT 9 Feb 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Deputy Army Commander General Chettha Thanacharo granted an interview to reporters regarding the allegation by a Karen faction that Thai soldiers had been paid by another Karen faction to suppress the first group. He said this an allegation is not worth any attention because anything can be said. He thinks it is psychological warfare. People are encouraged to listen only to reports by the Thai authorities. He stressed that the Army has been firm on its stand of not supporting any particular faction.

The deputy Army chief said the Army has maintained security smoothly. The Burmese suppression of Khun Sa's Shan state liberation army, or MTA [Mong Tai Army], clearly shows that the Thai armed forces and Thailand do not side with any particular ethnic minority group seeking autonomy from Burma. Otherwise, Burma would not have achieved success in its suppression drive. The Army has demonstrated that it stands by its policy.

Asked about another report that about 2,000 refugees are expected to flee from Burma into Thong Pha Phum District, Kanchanaburi Province, the deputy Army commander said he expects no problem as long as we adhere to the principle that civilians fleeing fighting should be given humanitarian assistance in accordance with international practice. Asked if there are enough areas available to accommodate these refugees, the deputy Army chief said there should be no problem; the refugees can stay at safe areas along the border and will be sent back once the fighting dies down.

Thai Supreme Commander on Karen Charge, Cambodia Visit

BK1002135896 Bangkok Radio Thailand Network in Thai 1200 GMT 10 Feb 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Commenting on the accusation by the DKBA [Democratic Karen Buddhist Army] that Thailand received money from the KNU [Karen National Union] group for the suppression of the DKBA soldiers, Supreme Commander General Wirot Saengsanit said the Thai people should pay no attention to such accusations because we have honor and pride and we would never do that. He said he would raise the issue of talks at the regional border committee meeting between Thailand and Burma scheduled for 19-21 March. He said details for the meeting had been given to the commander of the Third Army Region. He believed the situation would improve after the meeting.

The supreme commander said he will be visiting Cambodia next week to hold discussions with his Cambodian counterpart. He said he would discuss how to prevent the frequent clashes inside Cambodia during the dry season from spilling over into Thailand. He said there is no problem concerning relations at a high-level between Thailand and Cambodia. He said the Third Army Region commander is authorized to order an immediate retaliation if there is an intrusion into Thailand.

Thai Police on Alert for Possible Border Crossing by Karens

BK1102125396 Bangkok THE SUNDAY POST in English 11 Feb 96 p 2

[Unattributed report]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kanchanaburi: About 2,000 Karen civilians are poised to cross the Thai-Burmese border to escape a drive against Karen rebels by Burmese troops, it emerged yesterday.

Informed Thai police sources said the civilians had evacuated Democracy, Ayettaya and Tung Kha camps in Tenasserim village and were gathering close to the border, waiting to flee into Huai Pak Kok in Tambon Huai Khayeng in Thong Pha Phum District.

The latest clashes between the 30-strong Karen force and Government soldiers took place this week at Kamaw Twe village, about 20 km away from Thailand.

Three Karen soldiers were reportedly injured. No casualties have been reported on the Government side.

Thai border patrol police have been put on the alert to prevent the fighting from spilling over into Thailand.

Thai Official Wants Problems With Burma Solved Before Talks

BK1102153596 Bangkok THE SUNDAY POST in English 11 Feb 96 p 2

[Unattributed report]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Deputy Army Commander-in-Chief Gen Chettha Thanacharo said he will not meet State Law and Order Restoration Council First Secretary-General Lt Gen Khin Nyunt until certain problems between Thailand and Burma have been solved.

Gen Chettha said conflicts especially on alleged border encroachment into Tak province would have to be resolved before high-level talks could be made.

The construction of the Thai-Burmese Friendship Bridge crossing the Moei River and linking Mae Sot and Myawaddy was stopped last June by Burma, which alleged Thailand had encroached on the Moei River.

Gen Chettha plans to visit Burma later this month and expects the problems to be resolved by then.

According to the deputy Army commander, Prime Minister Banhan Sinlapa-acha agreed to restore the natural waterway in the Moei River as demanded by Burma.

The waterway between the Thai side and an islet on the river was filled a few years ago by Thai businessmen in order to gain more land for investment.

Gen Chettha yesterday went to Ranong to discuss fisheries problem with Governor Sira Chawanawirat, the Chamber of Commerce, and over 100 fishermen there.

Rangoon closed the Ranong-Ko Song border pass last August after the killing of three Burmese crewmen on a Thai fishing vessel and alleged repeated encroachment into Burmese waters by Thai fishing boats.

Thai Article Sees Bright Prospects for Lao Economy

BK1102125496 Bangkok THE SUNDAY POST in English 11 Feb 96 p 18

[Article by Ukrit Pathamanan: "Vientiane Vision"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] During the ASEAN summit in Bangkok last December, little attention was paid to Laos while Vietnam basked in the limelight.

Vietnam, the largest socialist country in Indochina, recently joined ASEAN while Laos, the smallest, was given observer status.

Vietnam has transformed itself from a 20-year adversary of ASEAN and a target of communism containment policy to a full member. In comparison with Cambodia and Laos, Vietnam has the highest potential in trade and investment. It is hardly surprising that most ASEAN leaders were more enthusiastic about Vietnam than Laos.

But Prime Minister Banhan Sinlapa-acha spent 15 minutes discussing specific economic issues with Lao counterpart General Khamtai Siphandon in December. Mr Banhan proposed the Lao Government open its service sector, particularly in the insurance industry.

The response by the Lao prime minister was positive and the matter would be further discussed by a joint Thailand-Lao trade committee.

Talks between the two leaders appeared to go beyond diplomatic dialogue. Despite being beset by internal pressures, Mr Banhan took time to discuss the matter at length with his counterpart. Perhaps he knows something most Asian leaders do not — the Lao economy is doing well.

Thai leaders regard the Lao economy as significant. Mr Banhan was among the first to recognise the dramatic and progressive change in the Mekong economy over the past few years. Instead of maintaining a negative attitude, noting only underdevelopment, poverty, and the lack of skills and capital, Mr Banhan felt discussion was the key to Laos' great economic potential.

The Lao economy is much improved, but the pace of reform has been slow, largely because of the lack of skilled personnel to staff new institutions and maintain the pace of growth.

Since 1988, growth in Gross Domestic Product has grown by 7.5 percent per annum, while inflation has been reduced to a manageable six to eight percent through cutting the budget deficit. At the same time, trade performance has reduced the current account deficit from 18 percent of GDP in 1989 to less than 10 percent in 1993.

An indication of Vientiane's direction is the State Planning and Cooperation Committee's decision to buy out the MP World Travel boat service on the Chiang Roung-Chiang Kong-Luang Prabang-Vientiane-Kon Prapeng route. The 180 million baht investment, the first between a Lao state enterprise and Thailand's biggest private boat operator, is significant.

Never before has Laos held 100 percent of a company. MP World Travel is now owned by the state-run Darpli Travel; Phu Doi District Development Travel; and National Travelling. Moreover, it is the first consortium to use state money since Laos embraced the market economy in the mid-1980s.

How can a developing country do this? To be sure, the deal did not happen by chance, but it is part of Vientiane's vision for an industry of high potential.

The operation, which has six boats, not only facilitates tourism but demonstrates that Laos is conforming with the Asian Development Bank's grand scheme for sub-regional economic cooperation. The scheme comprises six sectors: transportation, telecommunications, energy, environmental management, human resource development, and trade and investment.

Laos envisages the deal will strengthen the economy since transportation and tourism are the most important sectors for sub- regional integration between Southeast Asia and Indochina, including Burma and southern China.

Control of key sectors will provide the country with considerable profits to match revenue from hydro power export to Thailand.

If Laos steers the same course, it could well leave its position as a developing country in its wake this year.

Thai Editorial Views Cancellation of TV Talk Show

BK1002094496 Bangkok THE NATION in English 10 Feb 96 p A 4

[Editorial: "TV Show Ban Indicates Attempts To Squelch Media"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] It has been confirmed that the popular talk show programme Mong Tang Mum (Looking From Different Perspectives) will be dropped from the state-run TV Channel 11. PM's Office Minister Piyanat Watcharaphon, from the Chat Thai Party, said Choemsak Pinthong, the host of Mong Tang Mum, was self-centered and believed his programme was an institution which "could not be criticized".

The minister claimed that in producing the programme, Choemsak, a lecturer at Thammasat University, did not consult anyone or listen to the opinions of other people. He also accused Choemsak of using improper words on the air.

Before we pay any attention to Piyanat's claims, let's first consider the following statistics on Mong Tang Mum

- the programme started being aired on Channel 11 in July 1992;

- to date, there have been a total of 237 sessions;
- besides Bangkok, the programme has been hosted by Choemsak in 44 provinces;
- more than 800 people have participated in the programme, among them former prime ministers, politicians, academics, journalists, bureaucrats, businessmen, monks, nuns, gay activists, feminists and children.

Popular Choice

Clearly, Mong Tang Mum is a popular choice for many in Thailand and if it wasn't so, why did Channel 11 allow it to be aired for over three years?

Suphatra Matsadit, a Democrat MP, was on track when she told THE NATION on Wednesday it was ironic that Mong Tang Mum, which came to prominence during a "dictatorial" era, was terminated by an elected government.

During the time of the now-defunct National Peacekeeping Council (NPKC), which seized power in the coup of February 1991, Mong Tang Mum was aired occasionally on TV, much to the consternation of the generals. But the NPKC itself did not have the guts to axe Choemsak because he had the support of the people.

In the middle of last year, Choemsak received lots of flak from the Chat Thai Party when its leader, Banhan Sinlapa-acha, was a guest on his show just before the July general election. Apparently Banhan was embarrassed when he was asked by Choemsak to name his "dream" Cabinet, because the Chat Thai leader had to answer to the public on whether certain dubious characters would be in the government if he was elected as prime minister. Banhan, it seems, took this as a personal insult, and sources close to the Chat Thai Party indicated that if the party controlled the Public Relations Department, Mong Tang Mum would be axed. So Piyanat's decision comes as no surprise to many.

The Banhan government, by axing Choemsak's programme, is really behaving like a dictatorial regime. Does it have the right to decide what the general populace is allowed to see, hear and think, and to "manage" public opinion?

Choemsak has shown that the mass media is not a solid monolith on all issues. There are views that challenge fundamental premises and modes of exercise of state power. Mong Tang Mum gives attention to issues based on different perspectives. The framework of analysis within which an issue is presented gives it meaning to the ordinary Thai and Choemsak himself has refused to conform with elite priorities. For that stand, he is now paying the price.

Professional News Values

There is an observable pattern of indignant suppression campaigns against the media by the Banhan government. There are official attempts to squelch the liberal media by libel laws and criminal and civil prosecutions.

It is far from the truth that many in the media are able to choose and interpret news "objectively" on the basis of professional news values. The harsh reality is that these media people, especially those in state-controlled television, have to come up against elite and state domination of the media, resulting in them toeing the line more often. Choemsak, however, has shown that he dares to be different and is willing to take on the repressive state system that tries to induce obedience among TV presenters and journalists.

The Banhan government is at serious odds with the prevailing reality in the country. By axing the popular Mong Tang Mum, the prime minister will no doubt incur the wrath of the people. It would serve Banhan well to remember that official attempts to silence the media between 1991-1992, when the country was going through a difficult political period, failed. People's power triumphed and it will triumph again this time. Frankly, it's an insult to the Thai people if an elected government starts behaving like a military junta.

Thailand: Banhan Reverses Decision on Southern Bridge Project

BK1002094896 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 10 Feb 96 p 1

[Unattributed report]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Government faltered over its decision to freeze the southern land bridge project yesterday amid heavy criticism and suggestions of vested interests.

Prime Minister Banhan Sinlapa-archa insisted the superhighway project, which is part of the Southern Seaboard Development Plan, will be carried out.

Sources on the board challenged the motive behind the Cabinet's Jan 23 decision to freeze the land bridge, which could impede the entire development project.

Details of land use along the multi-million-baht highway had been clearly defined and sites for deep-sea ports decided, they said, suggesting the delay could benefit senior figures in the Government who have construction businesses.

Mr Banhan's direct request for the Cabinet to endorse his decision was considered unusual because he is the chairman of the Southern Seaboard Development Committee, which has not met since the coalition came to office, they said.

There were also indications the issue was being highlighted by politicians on both sides of the House who stood to win or lose from the project.

Democrat deputy leader Banyat Banthatthan said Mr Banhan had set back the 16 billion-baht project which had been carried on through three administrations.

Mr Banyat suggested Mr Banhan's decision may be influenced by land speculation. "Is the project being delayed because the route will not pass somebody's land?" said the Surat Thani MP. "Many people from Bangkok bought plots down there."

The project should not be frozen just because Chat Thai has no MPs in the South, Mr Banyat said.

Government spokesman Somsak Pritsananthakun said Mr Banhan ordered the delay because the cost estimate had soared and the location of sea ports was vague.

The land bridge has been planned as a 193 km four-lane link between Krabi on the Andaman Sea and Nakhon Si Thammarat, on the Gulf of Thailand.

The Highways Department has estimated the cost at 9.9 billion baht and a delay had been ordered in the bidding contest for some sections to reassess costs, Mr Somsak said.

Highways Department director-general Sanan Sirungrot said the project comprised 17 sections, six of which were intersections, and bids had been called for four.

The board sources said the seaport sites were fixed at Ao Thalane, Muang district, Krabi, and at Ao Thong Nian, Khanom district, Nakhon Si Thammarat.

Democrat leader Chuan Likphai said the Government's reasons in freezing the project were far from clear.

"This is a major development project and implementation plans have been carefully mapped out," said the Opposition leader. "The decision to freeze part of it is rather unusual."

Mr Somsak denied speculation the decision was designed to enable the Government to change the route to benefit Mr Banhan, who had allegedly bought land there.

"I don't know if he's bought land in the area," said Mr Somsak, "but the Prime Minister cannot decide on the route; that's the job of the Southern Seaboard Development Committee."

Southern newspapers have reported that land purchases along the planned route in Krabi, Surat Thani and Nakhon Si Thammarat had been made by Mr Banyat, Krabi MP Phichet Phanpichatkun, Mr Banhan and Chaloemphan Siwikon, a businessman.

Thai Soldiers Clash With 'Bandits' in Yala Province

BK1102134896 Bangkok THE SUNDAY POST in English 11 Feb 96 p 3

[Unattributed report]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Yala — Soldiers fought a 10-minute gun battle with a group of bandits in Yaha District yesterday after the gang had forced rubber plantation owners to pay them protection fees.

Some of the bandits, allegedly led by Ma Sungai Patu of the Barisan Revolusi Nasionale gang, were believed to have been wounded. Food and extortion letters were found at the scene of the clash in Village 4, Ban Ubeng.

Vietnam

SRV Foreign Ministry Welcomes Border Talks With Cambodia

BK1002090196 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 0500 GMT 10 Feb 96

[FBIS Translated Text] After the 7 February meeting on the Cambodian-Vietnamese border issue, our Foreign Ministry spokesperson was asked about the announcement issued by the Council of Ministers of the Kingdom of Cambodia. Our Foreign Ministry spokesperson said he was authorized to welcome the Cambodian Government's affirmation to solve the border issue in the atmosphere of peace, friendship, and cooperation; avoid armed conflict on the principle of the Cambodia-SRV joint communique issued on 17 January 1995; and be ready to meet with Vietnamese border experts.

This policy corresponds with the Vietnamese Government's policy, which has been clarified many times, most recently in the suggestion put forth on 31 January 1996 by the Vietnamese Government.

The Vietnamese side is satisfied with the result of the meeting held by officials of Tay Ninh and Svay Rieng provinces and hopes that the border experts of Vietnam and Cambodia will meet soon.

SRV National Assembly's 9th Session Scheduled for 2 Mar

BK0902141496 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 9 Feb 96

[Communique issued by the National Assembly Standing Committee; place, date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] The National Assembly Standing Committee met in Hanoi from 5 to 8 February 1996 under the direction of National Assembly Chairman Nong Duc Manh. State Vice President Nguyen Thi Binh also attended the meeting.

1. Based on the opinions expressed by National Assembly deputies and the preparations made by the government and the National Assembly committees, the National Assembly Standing Committee decided that the ninth session of the Ninth National Assembly will open on 2 March 1996. It is estimated that during this ninth session, the National Assembly will pass the law on mineral ores, the law on the state budget, and the law on cooperatives. It will also examine the government's supplemental report on the implementation of the 1995 state budget; the report compiling voters' suggestions to the National Assembly; and reports on the activities of the National Assembly Standing Committee, the National Assembly's Nationalities Council, National Assembly committees, the Supreme People's Court, and the Supreme People's Organ of Control.

The Standing Committee asks the government, the National Assembly's Nationalities Council, National Assembly committees, related organs, delegations of National Assembly deputies, and National Assembly deputies to accomplish all tasks actively according to their function to contribute to the success of the upcoming session.

2. The Standing Committee passed a regulation on its supervision and guidance role and the government's role in the guidance and control of people's committees. The regulation clearly defines the Standing Committee's authority in supervision and guidance and the government's role in the guidance and control of people's committees to develop the role and position and enhance the working efficiency of the state power of local authorities in accordance with the 1992 Constitution and the Law on the Organization of the People's Councils and People's Committees promulgated in 1994.

In its meeting, the Standing Committee offered views on the draft bill on the concrete duties and authority of people's councils and people's committees at every level, the regulation on the organization and activity of people's committees at all levels, the draft bill on procedures to solve labor disputes, and the draft bill on procedures to solve administration disputes.

The Standing Committee assigned the legislation drafting committees to coordinate with the concerned National Assembly organs to continue revising the aforementioned draft bills and regulations before presenting them to the Standing Committee for approval at its future meetings.

3. At the recommendation of the chief judge of the Supreme People's Court, the National Assembly Standing Committee decided on the staffing of the Supreme People's Court for 1996.

SRV's Doan Khue Speaks at Naval Party Congress

BK1102063396 Hanoi QUAN DOI NHAN DAN in Vietnamese 5 Feb 96 pp 1, 4

[Speech by General Doan Khue, member of the Political Bureau, deputy secretary of the party Central Committee's Military Commission, and minister of national defense, at the 8th Naval Party Organization Congress held on 30 January 1996; place not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] Dear presidium and all comrades present: delegated by the Standing Board of the party Central Committee's Military Commission, I am here to attend the party organization congress of the Navy. On behalf of the party Central Committee's Military Commission and the Ministry of National Defense, I warmly welcome you, outstanding party members symbolizing the intelligence and the militancy of the party organization of the Navy. I wish you, comrades, good health and the congress a fine success.

The party organization congress of the Navy is the first congress held by an echelon under the direct jurisdiction of the party Central Committee's Military Commission. Not only will the success of the congress be of decisive significance for the party organization's leadership over the Navy, but it will also be a truly valuable contribution to the success of the upcoming all-Army party congress and national party congress. In addition, it will also make it possible for the party Central Committee's Military Commission to draw on its experience to provide guidance for the congresses of other subordinate party organizations in the entire armed forces.

After monitoring preparations for the congress and personally hearing the political report presented by the Navy's party organization as well as the views expressed by various delegates at the congress, I realize that you, comrades, have been well aware of the ideological viewpoints outlined in the various draft documents of the party Central Committee and of the party Central Committee's Military Commission, and that you have attained a high degree of unanimity in your awareness of the ideological viewpoints, as seen in the way you evaluated the situation concerning the strong points and shortcomings and mapped out orientations, policies, and solutions for the new stage. On this basis, you have been able to correctly evaluate the true situation of the masses and have been fully aware of the strong points and shortcomings displayed by the Naval Party Organization in its previous term of office while setting forth the orientations and leadership tasks suitable to the characteristics of the situation and the tasks to be carried out by the masses in the upcoming stage.

As we look back over the past 5 years at a time when there is a rapidly-changing and complex international and regional situation; as the national renovation process keeps developing and becomes more in-depth; and as the strengthening of national defense and the safeguarding of the fatherland — which are faced with new requirements and tasks — continues to develop, with the need to defend territorial waters and off-shore islands being the most important and permanent task, we see that the Navy has, from an early date, correctly realized its role and position and has therefore concentrated on implementing successfully its central political task and fulfilling satisfactorily its task of defending territorial waters and off-shore islands. It has taken the initiative in combining economic construction and national defense strengthening and has cooperated with other military forces in maintaining security, order, and safety for our territorial waters and off-shore islands. It has struggled to avert and oppose the attempts of hostile forces to carry out their "peaceful evolution" strategy and to create subversive rebellions, thus helping to maintain stability and creating conditions for economic development, especially in our sea and continental shelf areas. The combined quality, militancy, and combat-readiness capability of the Navy have increased, and its forces for defending our sovereignty over territorial waters and off-shore islands have been consolidated by another important step. This has created conditions and possibilities for the Navy to develop its core role to join with the entire people in implementing the duty of defending our sovereignty over territorial waters and off-shore islands in the new situation. The leadership ability and the militancy of various grass-roots party organizations in the Navy have been enhanced in a reasonably even fashion. In their political task, they have been able to ensure fundamental principles, to direct their efforts at the central task, and to coordinate their ideological, organizational, and policies-related activities in a relatively close-knit fashion. Therefore, they have been able to effect a positive change, thus helping the Navy fulfill its duties.

On this occasion, on behalf of the party Central Military Commission and the Ministry of National Defense, I heartily compliment the armed services for their achievements in the past, and the party organization of the armed services for its efforts and progress. I hope you will further develop your achievements, enrich your experience, and strive incessantly to improve the quality and efficiency of your leadership, thus enabling the armed services to fulfill all assigned tasks in the new period in an outstanding manner.

I also want to thank the party organizations, administrations, mass organizations, and people in all localities nationwide for your generous assistance and support for the Navy, especially for the troops in the Spratly Archipelago.

Apart from your achievements and advantages, you have also conducted strict self-criticism and highlighted weaknesses that need to be rectified. The weaknesses that need the most attention involve the quality and incomparable ability of cadres and party members in political awareness and acumen as well as the ability to fulfill responsibilities and transform policies and resolutions into concrete activities in grass-roots units. These are issues that your congress needs to focus on in order to create even bigger changes for the better in the coming period.

Our country is now entering a phase of industrialization and modernization that will turn our backward agricultural country into an industrialized country with modern physical and technical facilities, logical economic structures, and progressive production relations. This will occur in parallel with the rapid development of production forces with high material and cultural living standards; firm protection of national security; and the realization of a prosperous people, strong country, and equitable and advanced society. The 1996-2000 period is a very important step in the new era. The party, people, and Army should use our full strength to grab the opportunity, overcome all obstacles, and carry out the renovation undertaking comprehensively and uniformly so as to attain higher economic growth and greater economic efficiency. Economic progress should be linked to urgent social issues and national defense and security so that we can escape from poverty and underdevelopment and prepare for greater development in the next century.

In the next five years, as well as in the whole period of industrialization and modernization, the coastal, territorial water, and island areas will bear strategic importance in both economic and national security terms. These are areas with many advantages, being the contact points for international interaction and cooperation and the attraction of foreign investment. At the same time, they are also sensitive and complicated areas. For this reason, the economic development plan for the sea areas must be a combined plan that takes into account various industries — such as oil and gas exploitation, marine products, transport and communications, tourism, and so forth — in addition to regular and close coordination with the protection of national security and sovereignty over sea areas.

The naval armed service is a combat force, and at the same time a core political force in protecting the sovereignty, and security and order in the seas and islands that are sacred parts of our fatherland. You need to realize the importance of the seas and islands in socioeconomic development strategies as well as in defense and security during industrialization and modernization. From this correct perception, you will be able to define your position, role, responsibility, duty, and direction to advance your armed service in the new period. The political report of the armed service's party committee has embraced fully all its issues for discussion. I will only stress some points that would help our thinking and contribute to the resolution of the party congress.

First, you need to be absolutely clear on a number of issues related to perception which serves as a foundation for leadership, management, and implementation of all naval tasks. You should fully understand the concepts of industrialization and modernization, maintain a self-reliant and independent spirit, and resolutely practice thrift to build the country and the military. You should also mobilize the intelligence and strength of all forces, and build up their total strength. You should also know how to cooperate and coordinate with other sectors and forces in building the total national strength to fulfill our political duties.

We need to develop the party's tradition of unity within units, and between the army and the people. The party organization of the armed service is already unified, and you can make it even more unified, especially within the party committee, between party members with the masses, between cadres and combatants, and between party leaders and commanders. The unity should be based on love between comrades, mutual assistance and cooperation in accordance with party principles, and be channeled toward the implementation of duties and tasks of the party organization and the armed service.

Leaders of the armed service should understand thoroughly the situation and duties of the country and the armed service. They should realize all advantages and opportunities as well as all difficulties, complications, risks, and obstacles. This is so that they can mobilize and lead party members, cadres, and employees of the armed service, helping them strengthen their determination to grab hold of the advantages and opportunities, overcome difficulties, repel risks, and be ready to deal with every complicated situation that may arise, thus fulfilling the political duty of the armed service, and be worthy of the trust and love of the party and people.

Second, your armed service should be built on the principles of revolution, standardization, effectiveness, and modernization. Its development should be based on experience and realities of the country and the Navy. In the development of naval forces, the development of political duty is a core component and party development is the most essential task. Utmost attention should be focused on the task of building up the political acumen of cadres, party members, and combatants, so that their devotion and determination to fulfill duties will always be maintained in all situations, no matter how complicated they are.

Your contingent of cadres should continually improve themselves in terms of quality, competence, professional expertise, and the ability to fulfill duties in all circumstances.

Training quality, especially for cadres, should be continually heightened. General principles together with the peculiar characteristics of each area and island should be carefully researched, while working out suitable combat tactics, thus strengthening the confidence of troops in victory.

The existing organizational structure, equipment, and maintenance facilities should be consolidated to heighten their efficiency.

The Navy should carry our research, advise the ministry, and actually coordinate its activities with localities and other forces to create a strategic people's war network for the protection of the seas and the islands of the fatherland.

You should understand thoroughly how closely coordinated the economy and national defense are with the state law to control security and order on the seas, and the suppression of smuggling on sea routes.

Your armed service will also conduct economic activities within the scope determined by law, and will strive to be highly efficient and contribute to the upgrading of equipment and improvement of the livelihood of troops, especially the living standards of troops based on remote islands.

Third, you should strive to excel yourselves in party work, especially in building up party organizations and party chapters, making them steadfast, pure, and competent units rich in leadership experience and the spirit of militancy spirit, capable of fulfilling all assigned tasks. This is the factor that will decide all victories for the Navy.

The contingent of party members should possess good political qualities and excellent abilities in action. They will follow all principles of leadership, encourage democracy and discipline, be close to the people, and contribute to the total strength of the party organization and the armed service. In party activities, behavior should always be improved, and the protection of party viewpoints and principles should be encouraged. Taking into account the particularities of the activities of naval troops, the ability to lead independently and to handle quickly all unexpected events should be fostered for cadres in party chapters, party cells, and party members in remote islands.

The party delegates congress of the Navy party organization has a very important role in its development, and in leading it to respond to the heavy but glorious responsibilities in the next five years. I wish that all delegates in the congress will further highlight your political responsibility and your best abilities in contributing more views to your party congress resolution. I also firmly believe that after this congress, the Navy party organization will draw upon its experience in studying and implementing the congress resolution successfully. This will thus create real and significant improvements in the ability to fulfill duties, and enable the armed service to successfully fulfill its political duties regardless of the difficult circumstances it may face.

On the threshold of the new year, I wish all delegates in the congress, and all cadres, combatants, and employees working in the armed service good health, progress, and happiness.

SRV Deputy Prime Minister Views Inflation Controls

BK0602101396 Hanoi LAO DONG (Special Supplement) in Vietnamese 18-29 Feb 96

[Interview with Vietnamese Deputy Prime Minister Phan Van Khai by correspondent Bich Hang; place and date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Bich Hang] Is it true that an inflation rate of more than 10 percent is unavoidable once economic growth has reached a relatively high rate?

[Phan Van Khai] The economic growth rate has a definite impact on the consumer price index. The main reason is because economic growth requires an increase in investment, and investment costs account for part of the commodity fund. Investment projects need time to produce, thereby further straining the money-commodity relationship, which is already unbalanced because of the inability of our production to meet all consumer needs. The larger the number of investment projects and the longer it takes to complete them, the greater the impact of this factor. This phenomenon is usually called overheated investment. With regard to the total volume of current investment in our country, foreign investment accounts for a significant part of this total, and about one-half of investment costs "eat" through the domestic commodity fund (payment for wages, compensation for site clearance, purchase of construction materials...). Furthermore, the relatively large volume of foreign currencies brought home by overseas Vietnamese residents requires a corresponding commodity fund. As a result, there is a growing need for a balance between money and commodity availability to stabilize consumer product prices.

Nonetheless, it should not be said that rapid economic growth must necessarily make people accept a high inflation rate. High inflation will slow down investment in development projects. The rapid devaluation of money will increase risk factors, thereby causing people to lose interest in opening savings accounts and business people to stay away from credit loans because of high interest rates based on the likelihood of inflation. They will seek activities that tend to generate instant benefits rather than make bold investments in production. This state of affairs puts sustainable and orderly economic development at a disadvantage. This is not to mention its adverse impact on social stability and on the livelihood of the people, particularly of fixed income earners. Many countries in the region have achieved high economic growth rates while at the time succeeding in keeping inflation rates low for long periods of time. We can and must check the inflation rate to reach rapid and sustainable economic development. Under the 1996 plan already submitted to the National Assembly for approval, the GDP is estimated to increase by 9-10 percent, and steps have been taken to keep the inflation rate at less than 14 percent before lowering it to a single digit at an early date.

[Bich Hang] Can you mention some key anti-inflation measures?

[Phan Van Khai] Realities over the past several years, especially in 1995, testify to the need to focus on the following anti- inflation measures:

First, it is necessary to closely manage the state budget, increase revenue collection, reduce spending, and keep the budget deficit below 3 percent of the GDP. It is important to work out a policy to use domestic credit funds and foreign financial aid to compensate for the budget deficit. Continued efforts must be made to continue the policy of resolutely ending the issuance of banknotes to meet budget spending. At the same time, steps must be taken to reduce the strain of revenue collection and budget spending and to avoid dealing with unexpected developments in a passive way and henceforth paying the way for inflation.

Second, continued efforts must be made to renovate and enhance the ability of the State Bank to manage and control cash flow, shift commercial banks to business mechanisms, adopt more positive measures when it comes to setting the interest rates for credit loans, attract deposits for use as bank loans, and broaden the application of different forms of settlement without cash payment. It is particularly important to improve the foreign currency management mechanism by enhancing the exchangeability of the Vietnamese dong based on reasonable exchange rates and to work out measures to use and rotate foreign currencies to ensure the balance between the money and commodities availability and to give priority to the use of foreign currencies to import equipment and materials to expand production.

Third, regulating the supply and demand of important commodities has greatly affected the consumer price index. It prevents price increases in items such as food during new year and before the harvest season, cement in the dry season, and paper before the school year. In the last two years, food prices have risen more than that of industrial goods and the "unbalanced price increases" — which works to the detriment of the peasant — has been overcome. Our country does not lack food and is quite capable of meeting the domestic demand for meat, fish, vegetables, sugar, and so forth. The main issue is to regulate distribution, export, and reserves to avoid oversupply or shortages, which may cause prices to fluctuate. The government is taking the necessary measures to stabilize prices in the upcoming lunar new year. Gradually, we must solve the hefty rises in food prices during the early months of the year. When we do this successfully, we can control the consumer price index for the whole year.

Controlling inflation is an important duty of the state macroeconomic management. Government policy must be accelerated and closely coordinated with the participation of businessmen and the public. This is especially so with regard to correct tax payment, the practice of thrift, limiting overspending, saving for investment in development, the purchase of promissory notes and shares, and deposits in savings account.

These subjective factors determine our ability to control inflation. Besides, there are objective and unpredictable factors such as price fluctuations in the international market or natural calamities that affect goods production and distribution.

[Bich Hang] Could you brief us on the major policies of the government and its measures to achieve economic development targets for 1996?

[Phan Van Khai] The most important is to create favorable conditions for businessmen and people from all walks of life to invest in all forms of development. We must eliminate the obstacles in policies and procedures, especially in business registration, land use, capital markets, credit interests, tax policies, import- export structure, and marketing. At the same time, we must eliminate the inferiority complex and preconceptions that hinder the development of all economic sectors. The government will concentrate its investment in infrastructure, raise the efficiency in the use of public capital and assets, and develop the leading role of the state economy.

We will continue to attract and rapidly make use of external sources of capital, which are mainly official development assistance and foreign direct investments. We will also adopt and master new technologies and seek more markets for our products. Apart from measures to improve the investment climate, especially administrative regulations, and the preparation and assessment of investment projects, we need to pay more attention to the implementation of approved projects and impose legal control over foreign investment projects.

With these policies and measures, we should be able create a stronger economy and development in 1996. Starting with agricultural, forestry, and aquaculture production; rural production; and consumer goods production and the export of goods, we shall expand tourism and services, and improve the competitiveness of Vietnamese goods.

We also have to create in 1996 the requisites for a speedy, stable, and more efficient development for the subsequent years. We will continue with our renovation of business regulations and administrative reform, build and upgrade infrastructure, improve scientific and technical levels, and develop human resources.

Our newspapers, including the LAO DONG magazine, have actively contributed to the renovation and national development. In the new year, I hope it will advance in form and content and always be a trusted friend of the laboring people. I ask the LAO DONG Magazine to convey my best wishes to its collaborators and readers in the new year.

[Bich Hang] Thank you, deputy prime minister.

SRV Public Investment Increases in Mountain Region

BK1202074996 Hanoi VNA in English
0613 GMT 12 Feb 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Hanoi VNA Feb.12 — Last year, the government invested VND 35,746 million (over USD 3 million) to boost socio-economic development in Muong Te District in the northern border province of Lai Chau. The money also included funds supporting the poor among the local ethnic minorities and an anti- drug programme.

By government decision, Muong Te has been chosen as a pilot district to implement a master plan on socio-economic development in all mountainous areas with funds from the state budget.

At a conference held recently by the government office to this effect, the participants noted that in late 1993 the district was provided with VND 2,500 million to carry out sewage, swampy area reclaimation and road construction projects. In 1994, over VND 14 billion was additionally invested in upgrading road networks in the region.

As a result, in addition to re-construction of a main road connecting the district with the provincial town, five inter- district roads have been built and eight bridges erected, making traffic much easier in the region. At present, an irrigation project at Nam Thin, a safe water supply project at Pa Thang, and a suspension bridge over the Da River, linking Pac Ma and Mu Ca areas, are under construction.

Australia

Australia: Man Sentenced for Attempt To Overthrow Cameroon Regime

LD0902102596 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0900 GMT 9 Feb 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] A Queensland man who tried to buy weapons to help overthrow the government of the African nation of Cameroon has been sentenced in a Brisbane court. A number of government officials from Cameroon were in court to hear the sentence. Gabrielle Corsa reports that 61 year old Geoffrey Vernon Hughes faces eight months jail after pleading guilty in the district court.

[Corsa] Hughes had been charged under the Foreign Incursions and Recruitment Act with trying to buy weapons to help overthrow the west African Government of Cameroon. He had worked in the country as an agricultural consultant and was angry at what he described as human rights violations. But the plans were thwarted when police were notified. In sentencing Hughes, Judge Riley said foreign policy issues were a matter for the federal government. He said Hughes, a father of four with no previous convictions, had obviously been motivated by sympathy for the Anglo-speaking people of Cameroon, but his good sense had been overwhelmed. Hughes was sentenced to two and a half years jail with the recommendation he be released after eight months.

Fiji

Fiji Government Criticizes U.S. Ambassador's Remarks

LD1202103296 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0900 GMT 12 Feb 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Fiji government has cautioned the new United States ambassador to Fiji against commenting on political issues in the country. In a letter to the ambassador, Don Gewirtz, Fiji's foreign minister, Filipe Bole, said public remarks on the constitution and the Agricultural Landlord and Tenant Act could be misinterpreted as political interference. Mr. Bole said the government was concerned about remarks Mr. Gewirtz made to the local media and reminded him of the restraints placed on him by the Vienna convention on diplomatic relations.

At a media conference last week, Mr. Gewirtz said Washington hoped a review of the constitution and future controls on agricultural land would provide a level playing field to people of all races in Fiji.

The opposition National Federation Party has also entered the debate, condemning the foreign minister for attempting to gag the international community.

French Polynesia

French Polynesia: Pro-Independence Head Rejects Autonomy Bill

BK0302124996 Hong Kong AFP in English 1146 GMT 3 Feb 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Papeete, Feb 3 (AFP) — A pro-independence leader in French Polynesia has dismissed a bill adopted by the French national assembly granting greater economic and administrative autonomy to the South Pacific territory, saying sovereignty would be the only real autonomy.

The legislation passed Thursday will make French Polynesia the most autonomous of France's overseas territories, even more so than the South Pacific archipelago of New Caledonia, which is to hold a referendum on its future in 1998.

The move must be approved by a constitutional review panel before it takes effect.

Oscar Temaru, leader of the pro-independence Tavini Huiraatira party, said, "it is by decolonising New Caledonia and Polynesia that can France become great."

Other critics said the bill only increased the powers of the territorial government's president and that it came ahead of elections due in May.

However, the territory's leader Gaston Flosse said the move would lead to peace and stability needed to attract investment and promote tourism, the only viable source of income now that moneys accruing through nuclear testing installations are to be cut off following an end to tests.

The French assembly's move came on the heels of a decision by the government to grant 200 million dollars a year in aid to make up for income that will no longer flow into the territory once the nuclear testing and research sites are shut down as planned.

The bill transfers economic and administrative powers to the territory — situated 17,000 kilometers (10,500 miles) from France and home to 212,000 people — and allows the government there to negotiate and sign regional accords.

New Zealand

New Zealand: Editorial Welcomes End of French Tests

BK0202163196 Christchurch THE PRESS in English 31 Jan 96

[Editorial: "Last of the Tests" — received via Internet]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The end of French testing of nuclear weapons in the South Pacific is very welcome.

After so many years the tests seemed almost to be a permanent feature of the region. If anything good came out of the last series it was that they demonstrated a rejection of nuclear testing that was almost world wide. France had expected an adverse reaction in the South Pacific, but was caught off-guard by the reaction at home, in most of the rest of Europe, and elsewhere. It needed to limit the political damage and announced not only that it would sign the nuclear test-ban treaty but that it would press for a zero threshold, that is a treaty in which all tests would be banned, not simply tests under a certain yield. It would have been better had France not held the last series at all, and come to believe that the revulsion towards testing the South Pacific had expressed in the past was now widespread. France had to learn from experience; yet, in one way at least, the last series appears to have thrust the world closer to a total ban on nuclear tests.

France can be taken at its word on the subject of not conducting more tests. Too much of France's credibility is tied up in the assurances it has given for it to seek some way of wriggling out of the commitments. President Chirac has learned that the world is not to be viewed from the saddle of a Gaullist high horse. Indeed, it may be assumed that France will be a leading advocate of the early conclusion of a comprehensive test-ban treaty. France is useful as such an advocate: after France embraced the zero-threshold position, the United States and Britain did as well. That leaves only Russia and China to adopt the same position, and real progress can be made.

The zero-threshold position was a real advance. Many had assumed that a comprehensive test-ban treaty would mean exactly what it said: that it would be comprehensive. However just what would be covered was a matter for negotiation, some countries — New Zealand among them — arguing for a total ban on all tests, others arguing for tests below a certain threshold. By having a nuclear power opt for an outright ban the ground shifted. Russia is still thinking about what the scope of the treaty should be. China still opposes a total ban on all tests. China also wants to make a distinction between the conducting of nuclear explosions for peaceful purposes, presumably engineering, and nuclear weapons testing. It seems isolated in that view, so far. The timetable hoped for with the comprehensive test-ban treaty is for a final text about the middle of this year, and a start to signing by September. The date of it coming into force is still under negotiation, as are arrangements for on-site inspections, monitoring, and the nature of the organisation which would oversee the treaty.

A comprehensive test-ban treaty will not rid the world of nuclear weapons. At best it might prevent the development of new generations of nuclear weapons by the nuclear powers. It should also be a major barrier to the proliferation of nuclear weapons by countries not now recognised as nuclear powers. To be completely effective it will require countries to sign and honour it. If countries do not sign it, they will come under international moral pressure and they will be watched carefully.

Even if all that happens, many thousands of nuclear weapons will still exist. Nuclear deterrence has not been abandoned, though the case for limitation is widely accepted even among the nuclear powers. Russia and the United States are still implementing the second Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty, which limits them to about 3500 long-range nuclear weapons each by the year 2002. That treaty is soon to be ratified by the United States Senate. Once Start 2 is being observed there is a plan for Start 3, which will get down to the numbers of nuclear weapons relevant to the nuclear armouries of Britain, France, and China. The world has far to go before it is rid of nuclear weapons. The end of French testing in the South Pacific is one step, but the rest of the road is not yet clear. Even the direction is obscure.

Papua New Guinea

PNG Army Called To Secure Bridges Along Highlands Highway

BK0502083996 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0500 GMT 5 Feb 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Papua New Guinea [PNG] Government has called out the Army to try to secure bridges along the Highlands Highway following a weekend violent in the upper (Markham) Valley. Sean Dorney reports that PNG police lost control of themselves and the situation following the destruction of a key bridge at the foot of the (Katarn) Pass.

[Begin Dorney recording] Police riot squad members from the Eastern Highlands set fire to a complete village at (Watarice) and assaulted a national government cabinet minister from the (Markham) Valley area. The highlands is completely cut off by road following the blowing up of the bridge on Saturday [3 February] morning, but the police riot squad crossed over on foot and set about their retaliatory raid for the burning of one of their vans and the theft of four high-powered weapons by (Watarice) people last Thursday [1 February]. The (Watarice) people are demanding compensation for the murder of one of their young men, but with the situation now running out of control the acting prime minister has called out the Army. [end recording]

Solomon Islands

Solomon Islands Foreign Minister Warns Bougainville Factions

BK0902082296 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0500 GMT 9 Feb 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Solomon Islands has warned the warring sides on the nearby Papua New Guinea [PNG] island of Bougainville not to allow their conflict to directly affect the Solomons. The warning was issued in Honiara by the foreign minister, Danny Philips, who said his government would not accept terrorist activities on Solomon's soil. Mr. Philips added that he did not want, what he described as, the civil war on Bougainville to spill over to the Solomon. His comments follow a report by Solomon police that Bougainvillians were probably behind a fire last week which destroyed a Honiara home of a spokesman for the rebel movement on Bougainville, Martin Miriori.

Solomon Islands will move to improve relations with Australia in March after the federal election. South Pacific correspondent Erina Reddan reports that relations suffered after Australia withdrew 20 percent of its aid in protest against continued over logging in Solomon.

[Begin Reddan recording] Solomon Islands allows three times the sustainable rate of logging causing widespread environmental damage and ensuring that its biggest source of income will run out within a decade. Solomon Islands believes it can replace the forests it logging out with plantations with which the forestry industry can be sustained. Political analyst with the Solomon Islands Government, (Sam Malasiya), says although there has been no economic effect by Australia's withdrawal of aid it has caused the rift in diplomatic relations which will have to be mended.

[(Malasiya)] What we are trying to do now is maybe to be able to mend that relationship after the federal election. [end recording]

Vanuatu

Vanuatu: Prime Minister Vohor Resigns

LD0802092896 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0800 GMT 8 Feb 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] In an unexpected end to a political crisis in Vanuatu, Prime Minister Serge Vohor has resigned. In a broadcast on national radio, Mr. Vohor said he was stepping down because he believed it was his duty to bring the crisis to an end. Mr. Vohor said he believed his decision would ensure the maintenance of stability and the security of investments.

Mr. Vohor heads a cabinet appointed last 21 December and his resignation means his government has been the shortest-lived since independence in 1980.

The political crisis followed a decision by seven dissident members of the ruling Union of Moderate Parties to seek a no-confidence vote against Mr. Vohor in the 50-seat parliament. The no-confidence vote, which had the support of the 22 members of the opposition Unity Front, was due to have been held during a special session of parliament today but was postponed until Monday, when a new government is expected to be formed.

The attorney-general, [name indistinct], says Mr. Vohor and his cabinet will remain in office until a new government is formed.

Vanuatu Court Bans Broadcasts Suggesting Parliament Dissolved

LD1002104596 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0900 GMT 10 Feb 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Supreme Court in Vanuatu has banned state-owned Radio Vanuatu from broadcasting any statements suggesting that parliament has been dissolved. The order was sought by the attorney general, Oliver Saksak, after officials from the outgoing government forced Radio Vanuatu's staff to play a recorded speech by President Jean Marie Leye announcing the dissolution of parliament. A decision to dissolve the parliament was revoked a few hours after President Leye recorded the speech. The Supreme Court declared that the parliament elected late last November had not been dissolved and ordered that no statement shall be broadcast stating or implying otherwise.

Weeks of political turmoil on Vanuatu prompted the resignation of Prime Minister Serge Vohor last Thursday [8 February] ahead of a meeting of parliament on Monday [12 February] expected to result in a new government.

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